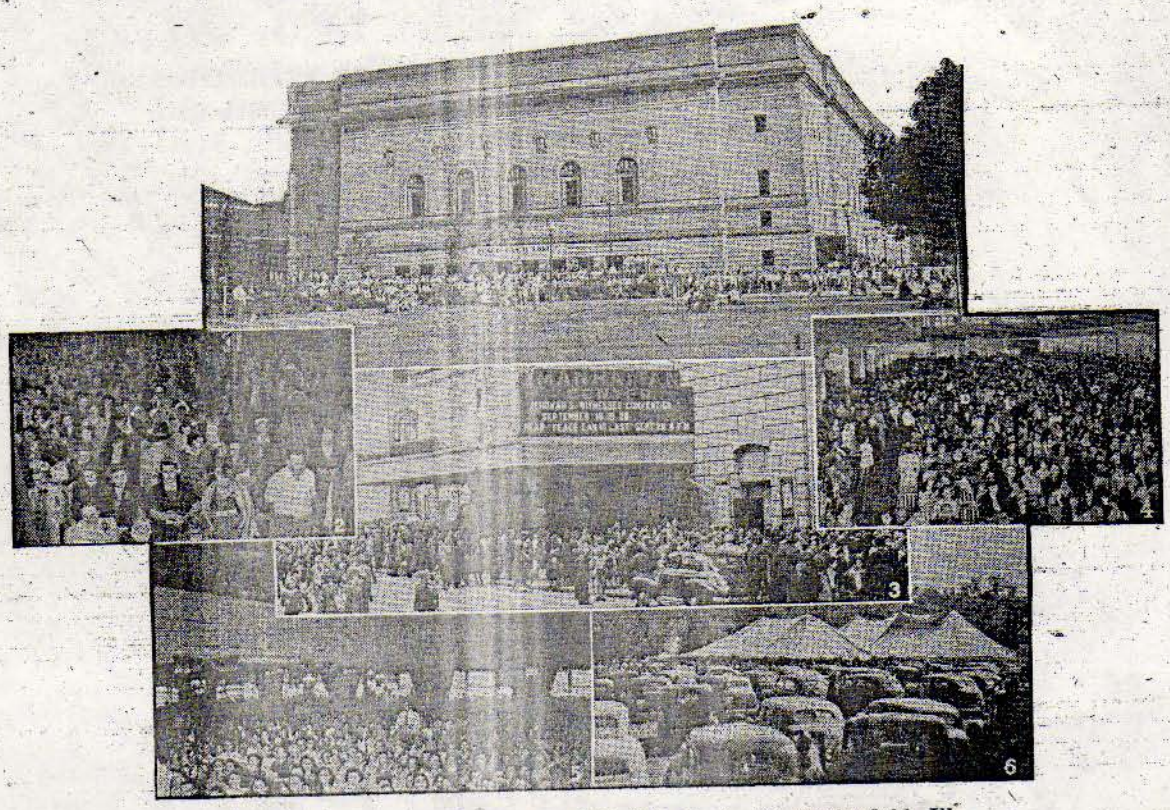
Report of the NEW WORLD THEOCRATIC ASSEMBLY

of JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES SEPTEMBER 18·19·20 1942

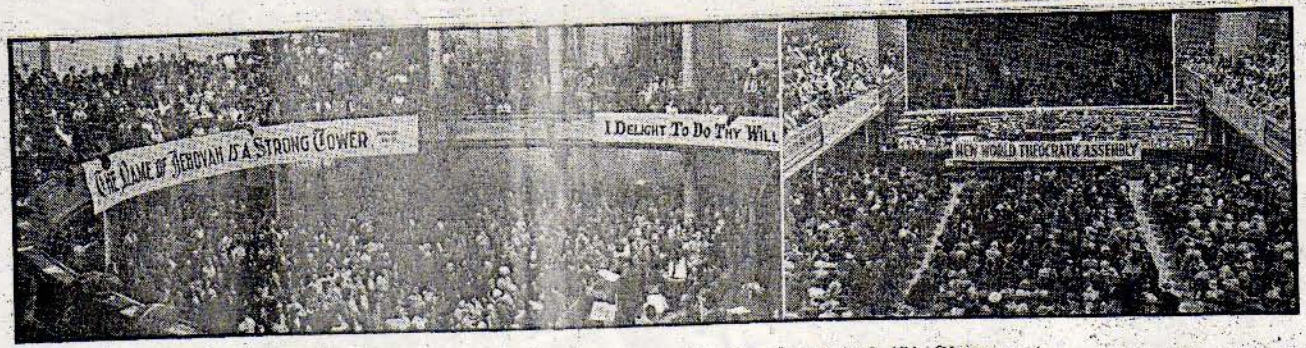
'I will open the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing.' —Malachi 3:10
WORLD
The People Have a Right
HOLY BIBLE
ONLY LIGHT
THE NEW WORLD
PEACE

"Thus saith Jehovah, Lo, these shall come from far; and, lo, these from the north and from the west; and these from the land of Sinim. Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for Jehovah hath comforted his people. Lift up thine eyes round about, and behold: all these gather themselves together, and come to thee."

—Isaiah 49:8, 12, 13, 18, *A.R.V.*



'Gathering themselves together' in (1) Cleveland, (2) Springfield, Ill., (3) New York city, (4) Los Angeles, (5) Detroit, and (6) Oklahoma City



Assembling in Britain. (1) London, (2) Newcastle and (3) Glasgow

"REHEARSE THE RIGHTEOUS ACTS OF JEHOVAH"

REPORT OF THE

NEW WORLD THEOCRATIC ASSEMBLY

OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

(Held in more than 85 cities throughout the earth—Cleveland, Ohio, U. S. A., the key city—September 18-20, 1942)

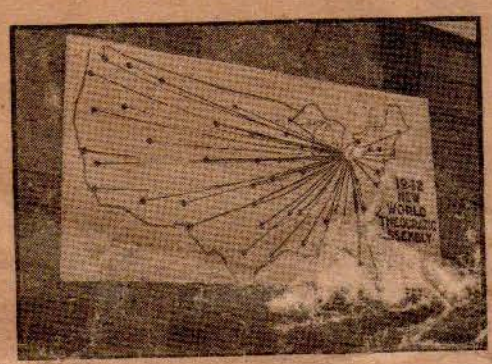
JEHOVAH GOD the great Theocrat in heaven speaks a command to his King and Executive Officer, Christ Jesus. The Head of Jehovah's capital organization starts to work to carry out the will of his Almighty Father. By means of Jehovah's spirit the visible part of the Lord's organization is directed into activity. A few consecrated ones on earth start to work. Others are consulted. Definite plans are made. Now these plans are put into operation and more help is needed. The working army grows; its recruits are "willing volunteers". Weeks pass, and by this time from its single visible point of origin the work has spread in many directions. It gains momentum, hits full speed ahead, and after the passing of many months is duly completed. It is the Lord's organization on earth working industriously in the midst of demonized enemies to the one end and all under the direction of the Theocratic King. How well is it pictured by a "bee", or a beehive, humming with activity!

But why these months of study, planning, preparation, negotiating and work, all pointing to one grand climax? What was the will of the great Theocrat as expressed to his Executive Officer that set in motion all this humming activity? This: That His covenant people on earth in the old world gather in a New World assembly. 'Thy will be done,' and through his organization it was carried out. All this work was to bear fruit in one great outpouring of blessings, in three days, September 18-20 in more than 85 cities throughout the earth. The joyous harvest was reaped at the New World Theocratic Assembly.

March 6, 1942, the president's letter announcing the Assembly was sent to all companies of Jehovah's witnesses and pioneers. During that same month the WATCHTOWER factory at Brooklyn, N. Y., started working extra time in preparation for the convention. From that time until the end of August the factory, in addition to the regularly scheduled working days, put in the equivalent of 33 working days by Saturday afternoon and evening work. During this period there were completed in time for convention shipment 122,000 copies of October 1 (1942) *Watchtower*, 40,000 copies of the WATCHTOWER edition of the Bible, 352,000 of *The New World*, 5,040,000 of *Kingdom News* No. 11, 1,500,000 copies of the booklet *Peace—Can It Last?* The tonnage of paper required for this printing was 194 tons. In addition to all this, 6,000,000 folders advertising the lecture "Peace—Can It Last?" used up 8 tons of paper; 100,000 placards and paper signs were printed, making a stack 68 feet high; and 54 odd jobs of printing and mimeographing of various forms, letters, programs, convention speeches, etc., were completed during this extra work period. Truly the factory was a beehive humming day and night for six months prior to the Assembly making these sweet things so that the antitypical Promised Land during the three convention days might flow with "milk and honey".

This is just some of the work behind the holding of the New World Theocratic Assembly. The convention cities were selected, and halls obtained, and then had to be held; arrangements were to be made for the AT&T lines; rooming accommodations must be obtained, and territory for convention field service prepared, and then the Assembly must be thoroughly advertised in each of the 52 cities; all this to be accomplished prior to the convention itself.

Were the results of all this work, the three-day Assembly, worth the tremendous amount of time, material and energy expended? Obviously one who would ask that question wasn't there.



Map at Spokane, Wash., showing scope of the New World Assembly in the United States

Jehovah God directed this Assembly to be held and through his organization invited his people to attend. This was done by means of *The Watchtower* and *Consolation*, the *Informant*, and special letters. By the time of the convention's climax 129,000 had responded and had assembled at these 52 cities. Some came by train, car, and bicycle. Others came by horse and covered wagon, and on foot. One arrived even in an ambulance, and one group of lively witnesses pulled in in a hearse. But they came; they were not willing to 'forsake the assembling of themselves together, and especially in view of the evil days approaching'.

Here is a report of the Assembly at the key city of Cleveland, Ohio. What is said concerning this city, so far as the program, the releases, and other general arrangements and activities are concerned, applies likewise to all the other cities tied in with this Assembly, for all partook of the same spiritual food. The same menu was for all.

Early in March negotiations began for use of the Cleveland Public Auditorium, one of the finest of its kind. Jehovah's witnesses were at first denied the use of this fine structure, but after four months of parley the contract was finally signed. Ordinarily, the Convention Bureau, the Hotel Association, and the businessmen would be overjoyed at the prospect of an assembly of such magnitude in their city. Each year they spend large sums of money to attract such assemblies to Cleveland, and when they heard the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society was planning one to be held in that city they were highly enthused and assured the coming Assembly of their warm, friendly hospitality. It is their custom to send out six folders, on six consecutive days, to each member of the convention committee. The first letter and folder were sent to the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, and then something happened. It was discovered that the WATCHTOWER is in some way connected with Jehovah's witnesses, and immediately the enthusiasm froze. The letters and folders stopped forthwith.

Published by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, Inc., 117 Adams St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
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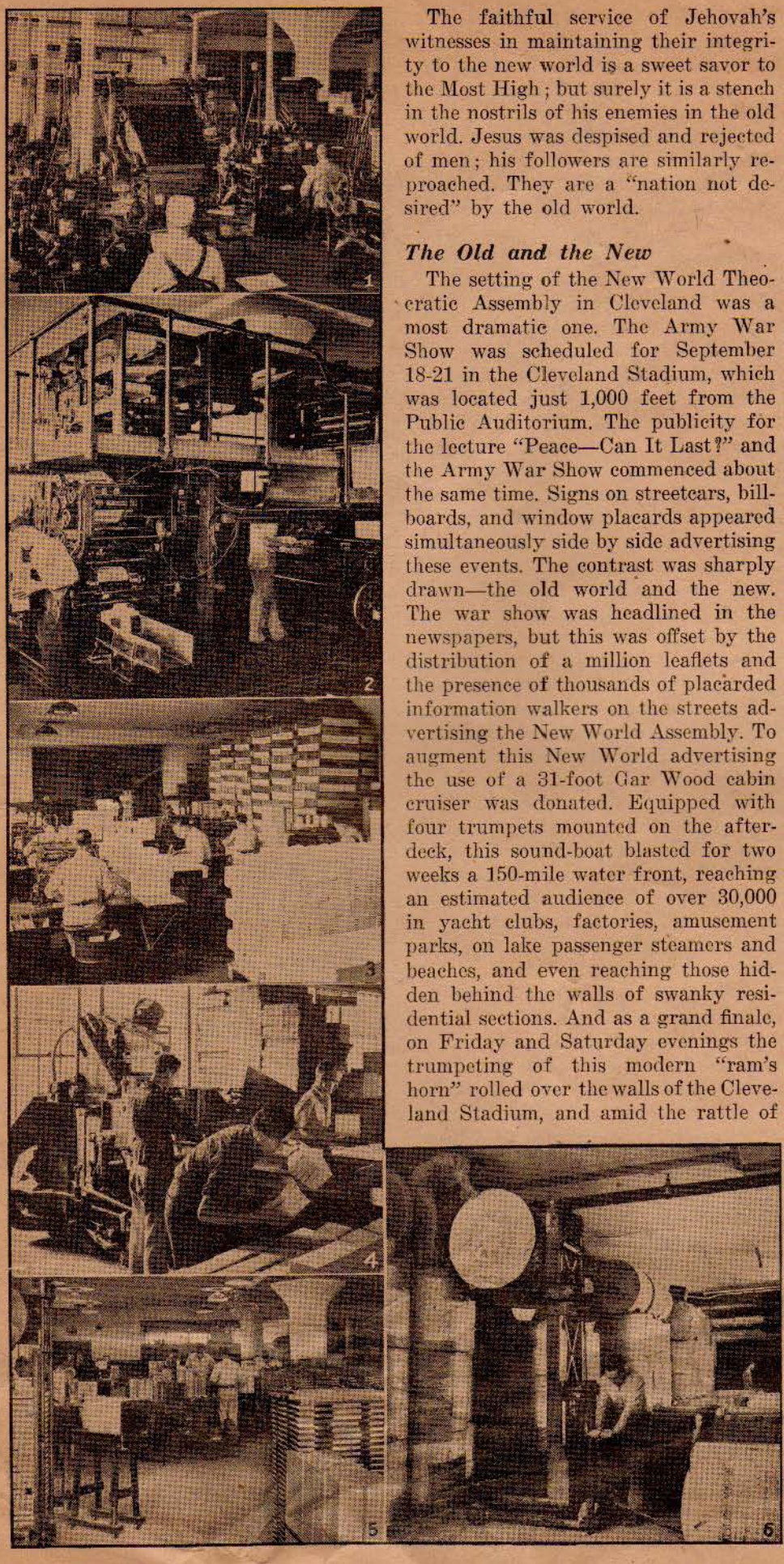


The faithful service of Jehovah's witnesses in maintaining their integrity to the new world is a sweet savor to the Most High; but surely it is a stench in the nostrils of his enemies in the old world. Jesus was despised and rejected of men; his followers are similarly reproached. They are a "nation not desired" by the old world.

The Old and the New

The setting of the New World Theocratic Assembly in Cleveland was a most dramatic one. The Army War Show was scheduled for September 18-21 in the Cleveland Stadium, which was located just 1,000 feet from the Public Auditorium. The publicity for the lecture "Peace—Can It Last?" and the Army War Show commenced about the same time. Signs on streetcars, billboards, and window placards appeared simultaneously side by side advertising these events. The contrast was sharply drawn—the old world and the new. The war show was headlined in the newspapers, but this was offset by the distribution of a million leaflets and the presence of thousands of placarded information walkers on the streets advertising the New World Assembly. To augment this New World advertising the use of a 31-foot Gar Wood cabin cruiser was donated. Equipped with four trumpets mounted on the afterdeck, this sound-boat blasted for two weeks a 150-mile water front, reaching an estimated audience of over 30,000 in yacht clubs, factories, amusement parks, on lake passenger steamers and beaches, and even reaching those hidden behind the walls of swanky residential sections. And as a grand finale, on Friday and Saturday evenings the trumpeting of this modern "ram's horn" rolled over the walls of the Cleveland Stadium, and amid the rattle of old-world sham battles 82,000 modern Jerichoites heard the timely question propounded by the warriors for the New World, "Peace—Can It Last?" and were told where to come for the Scriptural answer.

Mayor Lausche of Cleveland became so agitated that he urged Clevelanders to boycott the New World Theocratic Assembly and ignore Jehovah's invitation extended through His witnesses, and thus he fought against God. Instead the mayor urged attendance at the war show. The "other sheep" of the Lord did not heed the mayor's opposition invitation, but heard the voice of the Great Shepherd and followed his leading to the New World Assembly.

As one entered the Public Auditorium he was handed a program by an usher. Programs of these conventions are menus of the spiritual food to be served by the Lord, and they are always scanned with relish. On this one, the first thing that catches the eye is the cover design. A beautiful and graceful maiden is shown dancing down the path from a little cottage to meet an older man, a warrior clad in battle attire. What could this design mean? A picture of the glorious earth after Armageddon? It seems that it might be—the little cottage with its flower-lined path, the beautiful girl gaily rushing forth to meet this older man, her father, perhaps. But no, it couldn't be pictorial of post-Armageddon conditions; for the man is clad as a warrior and has a sword girded at his side. Such weapons shall then be beaten into peacetime instruments. Then, what could it be? It must be of some significance, because such has been the case with past convention programs. All were puzzled. None could guess. But on with the convention. The Lord will give the interpretation in good time.

Passing on through the main lobby one enters the huge auditorium itself, a magnificent sight and a fitting place to hold the New World Theocratic Assembly. Looking past the 12,000 seats to the stage beyond, the eye is attracted to a long banner stretched above the platform and blazing forth the words, "Blameless in the Day of Our Lord." This proved to be a most appro-

The factory at Brooklyn where the new releases were prepared. (1) Linotypes, (2) printing press, (3) sewing the books, (4) trimming *The New World*, (5) casing-in and the completed new books in the standing presses, and (6) paper stored in the basement on its way to the pressroom

priate text, not merely because it is the yeartext, but because every lecture and every new weapon provided at this Assembly pointed to this theme—blamelessly serving the Lord and maintaining integrity toward him at this crucial time. It was a service convention. Beyond the stage another hall accommodating 3,000 could be joined to the main auditorium by drawing back heavy curtains, and it was much needed.

Advertise! Advertise! Advertise!

On this first morning of the three-day Assembly a brief meeting for Theocratic activities was held; then to the field to tell others of this blessed Assembly. That afternoon an assembly for advertising was called, and after brief instructions on the various modes of publicizing the talk "Peace—Can It Last?" and the procedure to be followed all went forth to let Cleveland know about this timely discourse. Thousands flooded out in every direction, covering all the business districts with information walkers handing out printed invitations to the main lecture. Everywhere the gaze met them: men, women and children, some displaying the *Watchtower* and *Consolation* magazines, others offering the handbills with a pleasant smile to the passers-by. One thing was certain: Cleveland knew that the representatives of the New World were in town, and those of good-will were informed of their welcome to the Public Auditorium.

All 52 of the convention cities in the United States advertised extensively, using every means imaginable. The witnesses themselves advertised by means of information walking and distribution of handbills on the streets and from door to door. Signs were placed in store windows, on streetcars and buses, and stenciled on automobiles. Specially constructed trailers carrying huge signs were pulled throughout the cities; billboards along the highways were used, and banners were stretched across city streets. Sound-cars and sound-boats called out the good news of the Assembly. Baby buggies and horsedrawn vehicles were put into service, and even some horses and dogs carried "sandwich" signs advertising the New World Theocratic Assembly. Jehovah God even maneuvered the enemy and they greatly advertised the Assembly by their opposition and fighting against God, all of which was publicized by their propaganda loudspeakers, the newspapers.

Feed the Multitude

Returning now to Cleveland: 'Thou shalt not muzzle the ox while he treadeth out the corn.' So the publishers, upon completion of this concerted advertising drive on Friday afternoon, returned to the Public Hall, took the stairway leading down from the spacious lobby into a large basement, and found themselves in the cafeteria. It was busily engaged in dispensing temporal food. Just as 'those who do not work shall not eat', the converse is true, and all the Theocratic workers attending the Assembly were well fed, physically as well as spiritually.

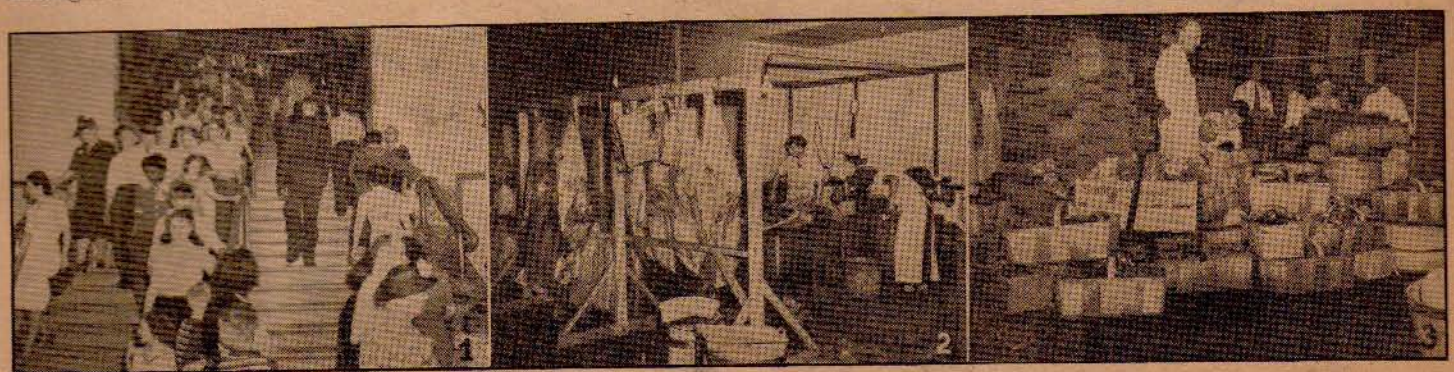
Twelve cafeteria counters, all in a continuous line yet each one complete within itself, kept twelve different lines of witnesses moving in a steady stream, and thousands were fed daily in the least possible time. The one in charge of the cafeteria, who was also in charge of the one at St. Louis last year, said this one was the more efficient and its twelve lines fed as many per day as the one at St. Louis, which had sixteen lines in operation.

The obtaining and installation of the necessary equipment, in such a brief time, was little short of miraculous. At times it seemed impossible to get these needed things, because of the war, but, by the Lord's grace, all the requirements were provided just on time and a well-equipped cafeteria functioned during the Assembly.

Typical scene between sessions at Cleveland

On Thursday afternoon trucks began arriving loaded with vegetables, fruits, groceries, coffee, sugar, different kinds of meats and other foodstuffs. The cooks and others worked all that night preparing food and making final preparations, and on Friday morning, at 6 a.m., the doors were thrown open for the feeding of the multitudes, and remained open, except during sessions, for the three days of the Assembly. Many of its patrons testified to the fact that it offered the best assortment of food ever enjoyed at any of Jehovah's witnesses' conventions.

The organization and operation of the cafeteria was flawless, and a marvel to many. The food was placed on the counters, taken away by the consumers and eaten, and the empty dishes speedily collected, washed, sterilized, dried and rushed back into service to make the round again. The manager of the Auditorium was dumfounded by this efficient cafeteria. He called to the Assembly those who from time to time operated concessions at the Public Hall and told them that he wanted them to see how such things should be run. The businessmen came and saw, and were more than impressed; they were amazed! After they saw it, they still didn't believe it. The manager exclaimed that they paid their workers



(1) Stairway down to the cafeteria and (2 and 3) meat and vegetables to feed the throngs at the key city

to handle the crowds, and still didn't begin to match this organization, yet the witnesses all did it without pay and many of them were mere children. One businessman remarked that he was in the basement a few days ago and nothing was in it and now he returns and finds a complete, large-scale cafeteria adequately caring for 25,000 people.

That evening the convention really started moving. Before an audience of 14,000, the chairman, H. C. Covington, delivered the address of welcome, followed by the discourse "The Only Light", by a representative of the So-

Advertising "Peace—Can It Last?" in (1, 6, 7) Cleveland, (2) Richmond, Va., (3) San Francisco, Calif., (4) Seattle, Wash., (5) Knoxville, Tenn., (8) Little Rock, Ark., (9) Minneapolis, Minn., (10, 11) Bismarck, N. Dak., (12, 15) New York city and (13, 14) Buffalo, N.Y.

ciety from headquarters, and climaxing the evening program came the president's talk "Presenting 'The Sword of the Spirit' ". This program originating in the key city was heard in the 51 other convention cities, 37 of them by direct wire from Cleveland, and the others by qualified readers of copies of the speeches, due to monopoly of the wires to those assembly cities by the federal government that night. The combined attendance was 65,968.

In his opening words the chairman made known the fact that in addition to these 52 American cities, witnesses were assembled throughout the entire earth, in Cuba, Mexico, South America, England, Africa and in other foreign lands for the same purpose, that is, honoring Jehovah's name. His statement that the fact that this world-wide Assembly was being held despite present circumstances was in itself proof sufficient to all that no man has ever been or is now our leader, but that Christ Jesus is in complete command, met with the whole-hearted approval of all assembled, as indicated by their spontaneous applause. Another declaration by the chairman, and one oft repeated and greatly amplified in the following sessions, was that 'we are not here gathered to meditate on the past or what individuals have done, nor for the purpose of digging in and holding our ground'. So the offensive warfare is on, to be climaxed by the Armageddon offensive of Almighty God.

The "Go Ahead" Signal

The chairman introduced F. W. Franz, who spoke on "The Only Light". This thrilling keynote speech was delivered with much fire and painted a most encouraging picture of complete victory for The Theocracy and the gathering of the people of goodwill despite vicious onslaughts by demonized adversaries. Quoting Isaiah 59:21 concerning Jehovah's having put His words in the mouths of his anointed witnesses and their companions, and that such words would not depart from their mouths from henceforth and FOR EVER, the emphatic declaration was made that the standard of Jehovah's name and kingdom would never be lowered until the floodlike onrush of the adversaries had been halted for ever at Armageddon!

The commission from on high to the witnesses was cited, "Go and tell this people, Hear ye indeed." How long shall they keep going and telling? Till dictators and totalitarian rule are junked in "the lake of fire and brimstone"; till "the cities be wasted without inhabitant and the houses without man". In other words, until the door-to-door work is useless because there are no people in the houses to answer the witnesses' doorbell ringing. "Here, then," the speaker ringingly declared, "is the 'GO AHEAD' signal from the Highest Authority to keep going on in His 'strange work'," come what may. This emphatic declaration of the "Go ahead" signal was greeted with instantaneous approval by the vast assemblage, and it could be heard on every lip thereafter.

It was shown that the never-to-be-removed spirit of the Lord upon his witnesses would bring them off more than conquerors by Christ Jesus. "Men may take away from you the WATCH TOWER publications explaining God's Word, but then you will have the Bible itself to use from house to house.... They may take away from you God's own Book, but then you will have the word of God in your mouths, and they will have to muzzle your very mouths to silence the spoken word." So, "Arise, shine; for thy light is come!" This light, the only light, was shown to be from Jehovah God and is The Theocracy, the Kingdom of Christ, the only light of the New World.

"What would be the result of the continual steady persistent shining of that light?" the speaker queried. Beautiful and inspiring was the answer given from the 60th chapter of Isaiah's prophecy: 'The abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee. They shall fly as a dense cloud, as thick flocks of doves that fairly darken the earth beneath, to the windows or entrances to the only place of safety before Armageddon's storm. The little one shall become a thousand and the small one a strong nation. Jehovah shall hasten it in its time.' Assurance is given in this chapter that the gates of Zion should be open continually, being shut neither day nor night, that the ingathering of this great multitude will go on day and night until finished and the enemy cannot close those gates to any desiring to flee thither.

The speaker closed by calling upon all the faithful to heed Jehovah's command to "Arise and shine", to keep on reflecting the only light in the darkness of this world, that "he might be glorified".

"The Sword of the Spirit"

How perfect, now, was the setting for the final portion of the evening's program: With the audience thoroughly aroused by the stirring keynote speech, the president of the Society, N. H. Knorr, stepped forward to deliver the address "Presenting 'The Sword of the Spirit' ". In view of the tremendous ingathering yet to come, as just outlined, note the appropriateness of the opening words: "There is further work to be done; much work!" Mentioning the necessity of all to arise and shine in response to the "Go ahead" signal in an offensive warfare, the greatest offensive weapon was identified as being God's Word the Bible, the "sword of the spirit". Then the speaker put into words the thought often in the minds of Jehovah's servants: the need of using the Lord's Word quickly, but the inability to unsheath this sword quickly enough. 'If we could only find the text we want, we could hold off our opponents, we could comfort those that mourn, we could give a word in season and make simple to others, with abundant proof, the things so clear to us. If we only had a Bible with helps wherein we could find quickly what we need!' How well these words expressed the long-felt need and fervent desire of Jehovah's witnesses! The speaker continued: "By Jehovah's grace, such a Bible has been prepared by the Watch Tower Society and is released at this New World Theocratic Assembly of Jehovah's witnesses!" Like an explosion thunderous applause burst from the vast gathering! Truly a blessed surprise far surpassing the fondest hopes of those assembled. Quieting down now, with not a sound audible except the quiet, clear voice of the speaker as he continued, the vast audience hung upon every word, unwilling to miss a single syllable as their precious Bible was described to them. Printed on the Society's presses; all work done by consecrated hands; months of study by more than 150 collaborators, all full-time servants of Jehovah, resulting in a concordance specially designed for use by Jehovah's witnesses in their ministerial work; an index of proper names, expressions and their meanings; and several pages of scriptures under the heading "God's Word on Vital Subjects", were some of its features.

Echoing the thought presented in the previous discourse, but with new meaning now, concerning the removal

of all weapons for the spiritual warfare except the Bible, the speaker vigorously declared: "The Devil may confiscate everything else. But GIVE US OUR BIBLE and we'll be outfitted to help the honest-hearted people to forsake religion and the Devil's organization and to flee unto the Theocratic 'mountains'!" and once more the audience thundered its approval.

Following the joyfully accepted announcement that this Bible might be obtained on the contribution of only one dollar, the president concluded, "It is hoped that this Bible will play a large part in bringing honor and praise to the name of the Most High as all the fighters for the New World march on to victory and the vindication of Jehovah's name." And why shouldn't it? God's great weapon for his New World warriors, the 'sword of the spirit', sharpened to razor-edge by his organization and placed in the hands of his zealous Theocracy fighters! Woe be unto the modern-day counterparts of fatty King Eglon as these New World fighters, armed with this newly whetted sword, spring forward in response to the "go ahead" signal wielding this new weapon in the interests of those of good-will still held prisoners in Satan's religious organizations. Their bonds shall be severed; like clouds of doves that darken the sky shall they fly from darkness to the only light; and Jehovah's name shall be honored. By his grace this new WATCHTOWER edition of the Bible will play an important part in this work.

"The sword of the spirit" joyfully received at the New York city assembly

This session was closed by the chairman, who announced that this new Bible might be obtained from the ushers, and also announced the release of the October 1 (1942) *Watchtower*, containing the full text of the talk "The Only Light". Now for the first time that evening the audience turned its eyes from the platform, searching out the ushers, and these ushers handing out these precious provisions became the immediate objectives of everyone there. A few fleeting minutes, and the supply of Bibles was gone. Old and young alike who succeeded in gaining one of these cherished books clasped it close as a treasure from above and moved away from the congested area of the ushers and with eyes shining and hearts full of silent gratitude to Jehovah fondled this gift as they examined its exclusive New World features. Their appreciation was far beyond the limits of speech, and few attempted to overcome it; their cup was truly running over. Had those who shared in the privilege of this Bible's preparation needed any payment for their strenuous efforts, it was far exceeded in the joy of witnessing the unrestrained and spontaneous delight of their fellow servants in receiving it at the Assembly.

This first evening's session, then, with its stirring lectures and undreamed of surprise, supplied the spark that threw the convention into high gear. No enemy action could quench it now!

Bright and early the next morning the witnesses were at the Public Auditorium. After a substantial breakfast to care for their physical needs, supplies for field service were obtained at the bookroom and service department, both of which were located in the same spacious basement that housed the cafeteria. The "Assembly for Theocratic Activities", reviewing the service work for this second day of assembly, over, the ambassadors for The Theocracy once again spread over the Cleveland area like a band of locusts, to the chagrin of religious hypocrites and the joy of honest people of good-will toward God and His kingdom.

A Peculiar People

Throughout the day the grounds in and around the Public Auditorium swarmed with witnesses, going to or returning from the field, or working in connection with the convention activities at the hall. By this time the attendants were becoming acquainted with their visitors. Frankly, they were puzzled. Thousands of people, and no discord or bickering. Not one of them smoked. They had no bottles on their hips, nor chips on their shoulders. A policeman who had many years been serving at this auditorium at conventions shook his head and remarked, "Well, I've been here many years but I've never seen people like this. Tell them to go this way or that way, and they go as directed. They don't ask questions, but gladly obey. And not one of them's smoking. I've cut down myself since they arrived, and if they stay here a few more days I'll stop smoking altogether!"

The regular crew of men working around the auditorium were the regular guests of the cafeteria at mealtimes. They reciprocated with excellent service and co-operation with the conventioners. Many of the employees volunteered the remarks that they never entertained or worked with such a fine group of people. Others said that previously they had heard many uncomplimentary remarks about Jehovah's witnesses, but just let anyone try to run them down again, and they would tell them a thing or two!

The afternoon session opened with singing, 18,000 voices uniting in songs of praise to Jehovah, led by a 35-piece orchestra strictly of consecrated musicians. Following this was a thirty-minute discussion of a prophetic song recorded long ago by the great Composer of song and praise, Jehovah God. It was entitled "Song-Call to Action", and was based upon the 147th Psalm.

Now a time long awaited drew near. In just fifteen minutes, at 4 p.m., the president would deliver the discourse "Fighters for the New World". Telegrams were read from various cities that were tied in by direct wire for Friday evening's session, all of whom were to hear this afternoon's talk, and many of these cities came into the hookup early enough to hear some of these telegrams read over the wire. But now the audience is quiet again and waiting expectantly for the discourse to start. A few bars of music signal that the hour has arrived.

"Fighters for the New World"

From its outset this talk had strong appeal to those who were actually fighters for the New World, and its delivery was of a forceful and fighting style. It was shown how we stand at Armageddon's threshhold, that in that battle of worlds, the old and the new, all those clinging to the old world will suffer annihilation. "Then," the speaker declared, "Christ Jesus, who when on earth went down into death without a fight will use his all-power in heaven and earth and violently fight for the New World, and WIN!" and the audience, seeing the victory by faith, applauded to show their full agreement. "Not a single vestige of religion shall

enter and mar that new world," and from this he went into a brief consideration of Jephthah, a mighty man of valor and a fighter for The Theocracy.

More complete consideration of this prophetic drama is contained in the series of articles "Fighter for the New World", in *The Watchtower*, beginning in the October 15 (1942) issue. One thing was emphasized, which was that God's people then saw and those at present see the need of a central, UNIFIED command that the campaign against the enemy might be properly directed to obtain victory. Back there Jephthah was the one chosen to be leader, and he looked to the Lord for direction. So desirous of victory for the sake of Jehovah's name was Jephthah that he vowed that if the Lord would give the victory over the Ammonites, then upon his return home whatsoever came forth from his house to meet him he would offer up as a burnt offering.

Jephthah went from victory to victory and fought an extended campaign in the field. Jephthah pictured Christ Jesus and the visible Society on earth charged with directing the campaign. It is Theocratic rule, a central, unified command. Jephthah's victory march pictured the fight waged by Jehovah's witnesses against the encroachment of totalitarian-religious powers, which fight has been under the command of the Greater Jephthah Christ Jesus since the installation of Theocratic rule in 1938. Jehovah's witnesses have not holed up, nor given ground. "So FORWARD they go, these fighters for the New World," cried the speaker, and added: "The battle has been hard, and becomes harder. It is not over, and may yet be a long one. But their King, the Greater Jephthah, goes on conquering and to conquer."

Then the speaker turned the attention of the 80,000 listeners to Jephthah's victorious return home, his being met by his rejoicing daughter, and his remembrance of his vow. Now all understood the picture on the cover of the program, concerning which they had all speculated, and as the talk continued to unfold and the Greater Jephthah was clearly visualized, all involuntarily moved forward to the edge of their seats in suspense as to whom the daughter foreshadowed. Who could she be? Six pointed questions built up to the climactic answer—the "other sheep", the companions of the anointed remnant, their fellow fighters for the New World!

All relaxed, satisfied, and eased back in their seats and received into grateful hearts the simple and touching tale of Jephthah's beloved daughter and as the gripping drama unfolded many eyes were moist with tears and those

The program cover

of the "Jephthah's daughter" class were filled then and there with a deep-seated, unshakable resolve to continue meeting the course set forth by the darling one who danced out to meet her fighting father. If previously any had any reservations in the fight, such were vanished now as they inwardly vowed that henceforth and forevermore it was to be everything for the issue, for use in fulfilling the vow of the Greater Jephthah. Thrilled indeed were these companions by the "well done" commendation when the speaker declared concerning their responsibility, "They ARE bearing it in increasing measure and, by God's grace, are doing a good and faithful job, which the remnant rejoice at and much appreciate."

All joined in the hearty applause and shortly thereafter a resolution was proposed. In substance, it recognized the great Theocrat, his King and Theocratic rule; the commission to preach, and the necessity to fulfill it without fail regardless of worldly opposition; that the Watch Tower Society is the Lord's visible organization; that the fruitage of the gathering work should be yielded up to the Lord for his service; and that all will fight on in indissoluble unity until the final victory. Moved and seconded, 80,000, in 52 cities in the United States, unanimously gave their word before the Lord by shouting a mighty "Aye", followed by uproarious applause.

A New Book!

Fast on the heels of this demonstration, and by the abrupt utterance of one short sentence and the holding aloft of a peach-colored article, the president threw the assembled multitudes into far more tumultuous and prolonged cheers by springing another grand surprise, the release of a new book entitled "The New World"!

Still bubbling over about the new Bible, the witnesses were overwhelmed by this additional outpouring; but their recovery was quick, and another orderly stampede toward the ushers was on. Announcement was also made at that time, by the chairman, of the early release of a study question booklet on this new book. With unrestrained excitement the overjoyed witnesses examined this second major release of the Assembly. Opening the cover of the book, graced by a beautiful embossed planetary design, the delighted examiners found just inside the cover a graphic story of three worlds—the one before the flood, the present evil world, and the New World in its post-Armageddon glory. From one feature to another the witnesses skipped here and there through this most beautiful of all the WATCHTOWER books, and long after its release the excited buzz and ejaculations of pleasure continued. During the evening meal in the cafeteria this new book was much in evidence, the witnesses reluctant to lay it aside for a moment. The supply of both the new book and the Bible were quickly exhausted. As one witness put it, "They ran out of everything but enthusiasm!"

Just as the importance of serving The Theocracy permeated all the talks of the Friday evening and Saturday afternoon sessions, so that night service dominated the program. "Pioneer Opportunities Now" identified pioneers as those who go before and prepare the way for others. They take the lead in 'going through the gates, preparing the way of the people, gathering the stones

The New World released to delighted witnesses assembled at Cleveland

out of the Kingdom highway, and lifting up a standard for the people'. Are there pioneer opportunities now? Never greater; for "at this very hour", the speaker said, "there are entire counties and portions of territory that have not been given the witness since 1936!" Pioneers devote 150 hours per month to the service, and conduct studies, and try to make 50 back-calls each month. Important requirements of pioneers are unselfish devotion to the Most High and the will to work.

Some of the snares keeping some out of the pioneer service were discussed. Some of little faith maintain they cannot "make a living". The purpose of pioneering is to comfort all that mourn and share in the vindication of Jehovah's name, not "make a living". It was pointed out that Jehovah feeds the birds and wild beasts. With far stronger reasoning, he will provide for his servants. Others think they should hole up on a farm somewhere till Armageddon's storm blows over. That isn't fulfilling the commission to preach. There are those of little understanding who seek a wife, or worldly goods, or so-called "higher learning"; pioneers seek first the Kingdom. Then it was stressed that "the New World is here to stay!" There are now in the field over 5,600 pioneers. (5,681 were registered as in attendance at the New World Theocratic Assembly.) The speaker's last words were: "Let's have TEN THOUSAND NEW WORLD PIONEERS IN THE UNITED STATES BY NEXT APRIL!" Hundreds responded to this call at the New World Assembly, turning in pioneer applications.

Theocratic Rule Magnified

The next speaker, on "Serving The Theocracy", immediately held high a booklet containing new Theocratic "Organization Instructions". Enthusiastic applause greeted this new provision, and close attention was paid as its contents were discussed. The need for such new instructions was shown to be due to the expansion of the work and increased light coming in due season. The responsibility of each one to personally preach and bear his own burden was emphasized.

Step by step these instructions were enumerated showing how each one might serve in unity with their fellow servants and advance the interests of the Kingdom in an organized manner. A new servant was introduced—"servant to the brethren," who is to visit the companies twice a year to assist them in rendering efficient service in harmony with *Organization Instructions*. In closing, the following admonition was given:

"And now, brethren, don't anyone say, 'Oh, these Organization Instructions are all right for a large company or for some other kind of company, but they do not apply to us,' or, 'I have to change this, or amend that, before it can apply to us.' My brethren, these Organization Instructions are from the Lord through his prudent and faithful servant unto whom the Lord has given the job of issuing such instructions, and they apply to all companies, large and small. If your present arrangement is not geared to conform to the Lord's requirements, do not expect the Lord to change his arrangement to suit you. Creatures are to conform to the Lord's requirements, not the Lord to creature's whims. Get in line with the Lord's method of carrying on the work."

The chairman of the convention next addressed the assembly on the subject "Victory", and showed that victory is not only for the Kingdom, but for the preaching thereof as well. One court victory after another was cited as physical facts in proof of this. Many false and trumped-up charges against the witnesses were enumerated, and it was shown how Jehovah had blessed his people with many victories against such injustices. It was pointed out that states wherein severe persecution occurred "are exceedingly religious, and give refuge to many hundreds of 'fifth columnists' who strut about the states with their collars on backwards!" A defiant No was the answer to the question as to whether Roman Catholic Legion threats and persecutions and mobs would deter or stop the work of Jehovah's witnesses.

The widely protested Supreme Court decision of June 8, 1942, denying Jehovah's witnesses freedom of worship, was likened to an approval by the court of the vicious "Stamp Taxes", and that, while it was a "soothing sop to the buzzard clergy", it would be just as effective in halting the witnesses "as if the Supreme Court had entered a decree that the sun should not shine". The fact was emphasized that none of the courts of the various states need follow this erroneous decision of the Supreme Court; that, while the federal constitution had been watered down, state constitutions still remained as

protective barriers to civil rights; and that until they were all swept away, in all forty-eight states, a larger fight than ever before, on more fronts, was still to be waged. Victory of the gospel-preaching does not depend on man-made guarantees and other failing human pacts; but upon the faith of the witnesses upon Jehovah God, who would not suffer them to be moved from his witness work until it be finished.

Right to Good News

The need of the people for good news was shown. The witnesses were asked if they approved of the peoples' being denied the right to this good news and if they would like to have, and would use, a handy instrument showing the people what is this good news. The speaker then released another unexpected surprise—*Kingdom News* No. 11, entitled "The People Have a Right to Good News Now". Copies were available not only for the witnesses, but also for distribution among the general public. They have a right to this good news, and they might have it "now". It will be remembered that the "Publishers' Edition" of the book *The New World* was released at the afternoon session, and now the chairman made announcement of a large supply of the regular edition in the bookroom, which the publishers might obtain that evening and use in the field Sunday morning. The publishers appreciated the privilege of taking this new book to the people. 60,000 copies were on hand at Cleveland, and all were taken by the field workers. The supply was likewise exhausted at the other convention cities and many thousands more could have been disposed of. This brought to a close the second eventful day of the New World Theocratic Assembly.

'Spectacle to Men and Angels'

It is no exaggeration to say that, even in these days of momentous events in the earth, on the days of September 18, 19 and 20 universal attention was focused on the New World Theocratic Assembly. It was under close surveillance by the visible elements of Satan's organization, particularly the religious faction, because the God-dishonoring acts of these groups have been completely exposed by the declaration of the truths of God's Word by Jehovah's witnesses. For His name's sake the witnesses are hated by the Devil's crowd. Such men, particularly the religionists, follow other men as their leaders, and accused Jehovah's witnesses of doing likewise. Judge Rutherford, they said, was the witnesses' leader. But Judge Rutherford was no longer here. Their leader was dead, they reasoned, and the witnesses would fold up. Cleveland officials so expressed themselves prior to the Assembly. The convention committee of that city listed sixteen conventions to be held there, among them that of Jehovah's witnesses, and estimated the combined attendance of all sixteen as 7,000. Still the Devil's henchmen eyed the New World Theocratic Assembly, to witness its collapse.

The Devil and his invisible hordes were concentrated there to war against the witnesses who have the testimony of Jesus Christ. They mustered the forces of their visible dupes to fight against the Assembly, but, as Jehovah foretold, "They shall not prevail against thee." Why not? Because this Assembly was held in accordance with God's will, and 'the angel of the Lord encamps round about them that fear him, to deliver them'. So the attention of the two organizations of the universe, Jehovah God's and the Devil's, both their visible and invisible parts, was fixed there and watching the development of the issue of universal domination. Therefore it is repeated: Universal attention was focused on the New World Theocratic Assembly.

Particularly were the enemies of The Theocracy anxiously watching Cleveland, Ohio, on the third day of this Assembly, which dawned cold and raw, with a blustery wind whipping lake Erie into a sea of whitecaps. They were awaiting the much advertised lecture, "Peace—Can It Last?" by the new president of the Society. By 4 p.m. that afternoon, when the speech was scheduled to begin, the day had warmed up somewhat for the conventioners and before the coming hour had elapsed it was blazing hot for the Devil's religious totalitarians.

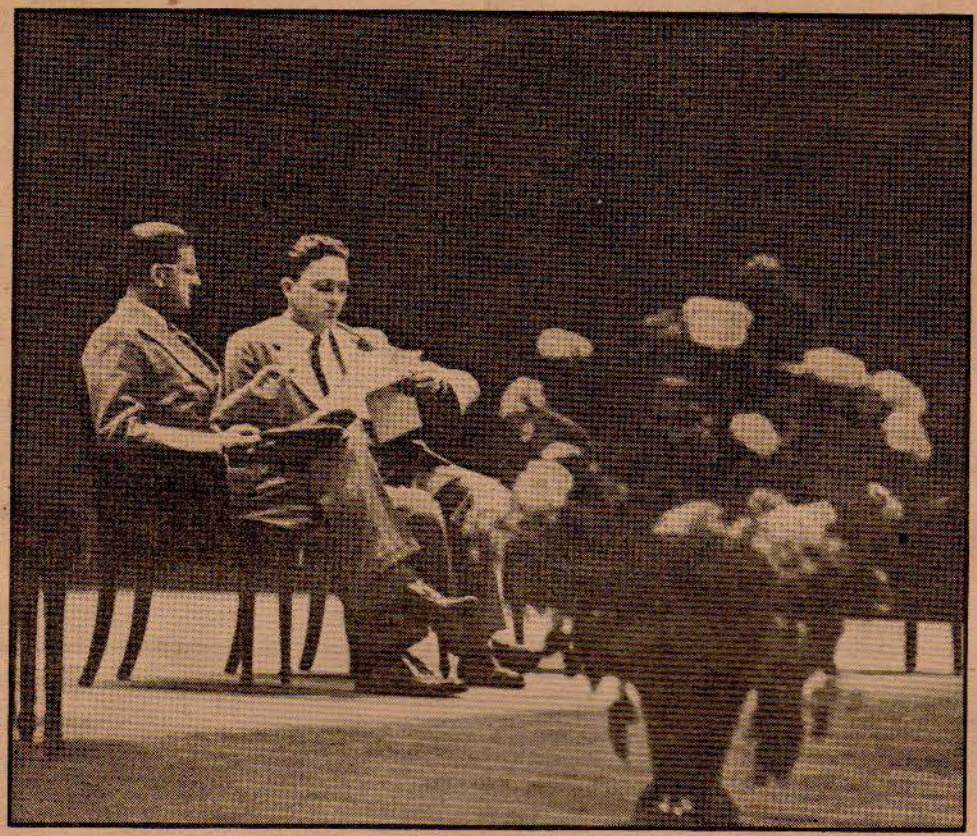
Even early in the morning of that noteworthy day the opposers of Jehovah God had cause to howl, for at Cleveland 459 symbolized their consecration to serve the Lord, by water immersion. The aggregate number being immersed that day in the 52 cities in the United States was 3,548, a remarkable figure indeed, in view of the fact that many companies throughout the country had local immersions not so many weeks previous to this occasion. When the reports are received from the many cities outside the United States who shared in this Assembly doubtless the number immersed will be seen to exceed 5,000.

These thousands came up out of the water and straightway entered the field service, preaching 'the Kingdom of heaven is at hand', just as the perfect example Christ Jesus did following his immersion over 19 centuries ago. In this they were joined by tens of thousands of other Theocratic ambassadors at the combined assemblies, all presenting for the first time the new book, *The New World*. That this book was well received by the public was evidenced by the glowing reports of the publishers returning from the witness work. One placed 20 copies of *The New World* in this single morning's activity.

In between the various sessions, and

Immersion of new fighters for the New World at the key city

particularly after the morning service in the field preaching the gospel of the Kingdom and advertising the New World Assembly, the publishers delighted in rehearsing the righteous acts of the Lord with their fellow Theocratists at these assemblies which had proved to be such refreshing 'watering places'. Many and of great variety were the experiences of the ambassadors of the New World to be heard at this Assembly as they sat eating at the cafeteria tables or gathered in little knots about the Auditorium and grounds to rehearse the righteous acts of the Lord toward them as they participated in his "strange work".



The president and chairman just before the public lecture

But time thus spent slips by quickly. It is now 2:15 p.m. in Cleveland and the main auditorium is packed with 12,000 people. Fifteen minutes later the adjoining hall at the speaker's back is full and the ushers direct the people down to the basement, where an overflow audience of 9,000 brought the attendance up to 26,000. Add to this the numbers attending in the 51 other cities, and the total figure soars above 129,000 for this session of the Assembly!

Ye Cannot Overthrow It

This is a stinging rebuke to the lying religious leaders who maintained that the late Judge Rutherford was the leader of Jehovah's witnesses, but doubtless it will do them no good, as many stripes on the backs of fools are required, not reproofs. These stripes they shall have at Armageddon, but if they were wise they would consider Gamaliel's words and apply the principle there set forth and refrain from further fighting against God. Gamaliel's counsel was, in substance, this: 'Theudas rose up and hundreds joined themselves unto him. He was slain, and those who had followed him were scattered and came to nought. Judas of Galilee drew many people after him. He perished, and all who had obeyed him were dispersed. So, refrain from these men [the apostles]; because if they are following a man and the work is of men it will come to nought. But if it is of God you can not overthrow it and you will be found fighting against God.' The one whom religious clergy claimed was the leader of the witnesses is dead as a human creature, yet the witnesses were not dispersed, but assembled together in greater numbers than ever before and in closer unity than ever before. Why? Because their Leader shall never die and he is the King of The Theocracy, Christ Jesus. The meek of the earth can appreciate this now more than ever before; but religious fools ignore these powerful physical facts and continue fighting against God, and will be so occupied when swept away into everlasting destruction at Armageddon.

Start of the lecture "Peace—Can It Last?"

After listening to a half-hour discourse on "Defeat of Persecution", the audience sits quietly, waiting for the speech "Peace—Can It Last?" to begin. Though 30 minutes separate these two addresses no one leaves his seat. He could never get it back if he did. The telephonic circuit is once again made with the other cities,—Little Rock excepted, due to its newly installed mob rule—and as the president steps forward to the microphone the audience settles itself and fixes its undivided attention on the platform; for the long-anticipated moment, the one so strenuously advertised, had arrived.

The Question Answered

Never did one hour pass so fast. Scarcely had the speaker begun, it seemed, than he quit. But in that fleeting hour as smashing a blow as ever dealt religious politicians since the days that Jesus walked on the earth was there landed, and the Roman Catholic Hierarchy received the full force of the mighty wallop.

The speaker said the present war was for world domination, that since the Reformation it was inevitable. It is between the parties of two sets of ideas. It is not Armageddon; and the Scriptures show that before that battle comes, a peace must come. A forceful argument was advanced, which had a ring of authority because based solely upon God's infallible Word, showing just how the peace would come about

and what would quickly follow. Here is a portion of that address and which answers the timely question:

"Note now the Scriptural answer to our question concerning peace as given by the great Revealer of secrets, in Revelation, chapter seventeen. The World War was stopped in 1918. The implement that was then prescribed and provided to maintain the peace was the League of Nations with its World Court, which, eventually, was joined by fifty-seven nations of the world. . . . This League was hailed by the Protestant federal council of religious organizations of America as 'the political expression of the Kingdom of God on earth', but it was not so styled by the religious ruler at Vatican City. . . . The League of Nations, with world power and authority and fifty-seven members, was a scarlet-colored political creature, new and unusual but imaging in respects the seven world powers of human history. It combined also the living relics of all seven of them. It is therefore an added world power, the 'eighth' one. . . . As for its names of blasphemy, 'blasphemy' here means the ascribing to men that which belongs to God or which Almighty God alone can do. In connection with this association of nations, it is noted that its creators and backers make for it promises that it will do what God's Word plainly declares only his Theocratic Government or Kingdom by Christ Jesus will do. Thereby these false political and religious prophets paste the beastly creature with 'names of blasphemy'. Thereby they cause it to 'stand in the holy place', 'where it ought not.' . . .

"Concerning it [the League] God's Word says: 'And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.' (Revelation 17:11) It can now be said that the League 'was, and is not'. . . . Though forty members still profess to adhere to the League, the League is in effect in a state of suspended animation, and needs to be revived if it is ever to live again. It has gone into the abyss of inaction and ineffectiveness. It 'is not'. . . .

"Will the League remain in the pit? Again the Word of God gives answer: 'The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and is about to come up out of the abyss, and to go into perdition. And they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, they whose name hath not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast, how that he was, and is not, and shall be present.' (Revelation 17:8, *Am. Rev. Ver.*, margin) The association of worldly nations will rise again. The fight between 'the king of the north' and 'the king of the south', being for WORLD domination, makes such an outcome of this total war unavoidable. The necessities of meeting the totalitarian aggressions and stopping them are forcing the nations to that final confederation of nations for the new order, whatever its form. . . .

"But mark this: The prophecy shows that when the 'beast' comes out of the abyss at the end of this total war it comes out with the woman 'Babylon' on its back, or she climbs upon its back as soon as it gets out. That means that 'organized religion', and this time the religious organization with headquarters at Vatican City, will ride and exercise guiding influence over the League beast. . . .

"Once again we ask the leading question, 'Peace—Can It Last?' and God's definite answer is, No! Man-made peace under religion's 'blessing' will be very short-lived, and political kings and rulers will not long enjoy it. The record says they 'receive power as kings ONE HOUR with the beast'. 'One hour,' with God, denotes a very brief time; and suddenly those ten horns and the beast will go into perdition, not peacefully, but violently, at the battle of Armageddon. This time the beast and its heads and horns will go, not into the 'bottomless pit', but into the 'lake of fire and brimstone', to be utterly consumed and destroyed.—Revelation 19:20; 20:10."

The speech was freely punctuated by applause as the logical, clear and timely argument was developed to its climax. In conclusion, the course of the faithful witnesses of Jehovah was pointed out. They will not wonder and be deceived, but will plow right on through opposition and persecution, preaching of Jehovah's new world of righteousness and the peace everlasting it shall usher in. Only those who flee to the "mountains", The Theocracy, will escape sharing the destruction visited upon the peace beast.

This lecture was scheduled to be broadcast by radio station WBBR in Brooklyn, New York. All the necessary telephone connections and other technical equipment were prepared and carefully checked in advance and everything appeared to be in perfect order. During a regularly scheduled Sunday morning program a serious and unexpected breakdown completely paralyzed the WBBR studios and forced a shutdown. This was at 9:30 a.m. In the meantime, the one acquainted with the technical equipment was in Manhattan, New York, attending the Assembly and was at the moment on his way to the field to witness. An usher nabbed him in the nick of time and instructed him to report to WBBR. Trusting in the Lord, a careful checking of the equipment was started. Would this Theocratic radio station have to remain silent and dead during the greatest fighting message ever delivered in these last days against the Devil's old world religious systems? A telegram sent by WBBR to the president of the Society at the Cleveland assembly answers: "Thrilling message 'Peace—Can It Last?' received perfectly. Broadcast throughout."

Indeed "Peace—Can It Last?" was a telling blow struck in the interests of the people of good-will, and was landed in dynamic hard-hitting style by a staunch fighter for the New World. He pulled no punches, either in the message or its delivery. Jehovah's people knew He was running His organization and placing the members in it as He sees fit. Visible proof was given of this at the Assembly when the newly installed president of the Society spoke and the Lord's spirit upon him was so manifest to all, and many so expressed themselves. Instead of disintegration because of the passing on of a man, as "wishful thinking" religious enemies predicted, the Lord's organization on earth is more closely knit and welded together now under Theocratic rule than ever before in the history of the church. All drive ahead in unbreakable unity under the Greater Jephthah to further onslaughts against the modern Ammonites.

Largest Christian Assembly Ever

By letter, cable and other means of communication information was received of gatherings of Jehovah's witnesses throughout the earth on this momentous occasion. These reports at hand show that 89 cities had a share in this New World Assembly and met on Sunday, September 20, and heard the powerful lecture "Peace—Can It Last?" either as the words flowed from the speaker's mouth or as the manuscript was read by others. Due to

difficult communications only very incomplete reports of attendance are available. Even so, to date carefully compiled attendance figures reach the amazing high mark of 156,424! Never before in the history of the Christian church has such a gigantic assembly been held. And this despite the inconveniences and restrictions and even violent oppositions of these perilous times. The unparalleled magnitude of the gathering, the complete unity of action of the 89 far-flung cities, and the success with which the undertaking was crowned, was nothing short of miraculous. Jehovah God directed that this assembly be held; by His grace and power alone it was accomplished.

Such a record assembly might well be expected at this time, the time of the Lord's gathering of the "other sheep" to the one fold. Was this ingathering manifest at this Assembly? Yes, and here again in record proportions. Acts 2:41 reads: "They that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls." Last year at the St. Louis convention 3,903 were immersed. This year at the New World Assembly, on the single day of September 20, 4,992 symbolized their consecration to serve Jehovah God from thenceforth and forevermore! And this report is not complete. So the day of the lecture "Peace—Can It Last?" was a glorious one for Jehovah's people; a disastrous one for His enemies.

Eighty thousand cheering New World fighters shouted "Aye" to a resolution at the conclusion of the speech "Fighters for the New World", marking their approval and that they were united in the scrap to the finish. Was there any evidence of their acceptance of the talk "Peace—Can It Last?" Indeed there was. Immediately at the close of the discourse the chairman's announcement that the full text of the talk was in booklet form and one copy was to be given free to everyone in attendance was greeted by delighted and unanimous applause.

'Scatter the Coals over the City'

Further manifestation of approval than this, however, was shown. All who desired ten additional copies to distribute in the convention cities might have them also. The rush was simultaneous in 52 cities. They surged forward for copies as in the case of the other surprises, but instead of settling down to examine the release as previously done they kept 'going ahead' and scattered more than 500,000 of these fiery coals throughout the 52 cities with the same burning zeal with which it was delivered. Religious enemies of The Theocracy are still sizzling. As Jael slammed home the tent pin into Sisera's temple, as Ehud plunged the sword deep into King Eglon's belly, beyond the hilt, allowing the dirt to run out, so these fighters for the New World dealt religion a deadly blow and with this new offensive weapon exposed her filth and dirty machinations even before they are perpetrated! The Roman Catholic Hierarchy now know, to their sorrow and bitter disappointment, that God's organization on earth didn't collapse with the passing of one of its members.

Leaving Cleveland auditorium to scatter the new booklet over the city

This discourse was the climax of the convention. Less than two hours later the New World Theocratic Assembly convened in its final session. At this time the program in Cleveland varied from that of the other cities in that it heard reports from representatives from Australasia and Britain.

The forward surge of the work in those countries in spite of continued encroachments by the "Assyrian" upon the Promised Land forcefully demonstrated that it was the Lord's doing, and was marvelous in the eyes of those assembled in this country and who had the privilege of hearing these reports. Operating under many burdensome and trying restrictions, regimentation, and even shortage of supplies to advance the Kingdom interests, the zeal of the witnesses in marching forward despite handicaps is resulting in a mighty witness and great ingathering of "other sheep". This was held forth as an example to the witnesses in this land where so much freedom still remains for the gospel-preaching and where they have such a large supply of literature to push the fight.

Declaring that "no law has yet been successfully enacted which could stop God's people from going from door to door with the Bible", the representative from Australasia presented some figures showing the results of such zealous course and the Lord's adding the increase. In January, 1941, when the ban was imposed the Sydney company had a peak of 648 publishers; July, 1942, the publishers skyrocketed over 1,000! The average number of publishers in Australia in 1940 was 2,371; now, in spite of the Devil and his demons, they have reached a new peak of 4,694!

Next on the program was a report of the convention activities. The scope of such an assembly and the tremendous amount of work involved has been depicted. Certainly it was well worth it to those in attendance. Did others aside from the conventioners benefit therefrom? They did as shown by the reports. 147,000 pieces of literature containing the message of God's kingdom were placed at Cleveland alone, the majority of this with the city's residents. In addition to this, more than 10,000 copies of the *Watchtower* and *Consolation* magazines were distributed. The report compiled from all 52 cities in this country appears on page 29 and surely discloses a mighty flood of truth—a cloudburst in three days! The purpose of the Assembly was to honor the Lord's name. By His grace, this was done.

A discourse on "Final Gathering" followed this report, emphasizing the importance of Jehovah's witnesses abandoning old world pursuits and pleasures which will soon vanish away and devoting all their energies to Theocratic service, and this particularly in view of the work of "fishing" and "hunting" necessary in searching out the Lord's "other sheep".

At this point a representative from Canada quickly stepped forward and asked permission to read an expression of appreciation for this blessed Assembly, and permission was granted. At its conclusion the entire audience rose as one man in approval and to unitedly express before the Lord their gratefulness to Him for the Assembly now entering its final moments.

A Message from the President

And now the time has arrived for the closing event of the final session of the New World Theocratic Assembly. It was a message from the president of the Society. This closing message, like the opening keynote address and all

the other discourses in between, stressed faithful service to The Theocracy until the Lord says it is enough. Gratefully the conventioners received this parting admonition just prior to their dispersal to their respective local fields of labor, each more determined than ever to be "blameless in the day of our Lord".

A thrilling and vividly picturesque telegram from the president announcing the Assembly as a victory sweep for the Greater Jephthah and the New World was read at all the convention cities assembled, and with grateful hearts prayer was offered up to the Most High God Jehovah for arranging this blessed Assembly for his people in these perilous times and for the bounteous feasting poured out upon his people in the past three days. The New World Theocratic Assembly had ended.

Here is the telegram sent by the president to all the convention assemblies in the 51 cities and which was read at the conclusion of the message from the president:

"Greater Jephthah sweeps through 52 American cities, smiting modern Ammonites despite opposition, hall cancellations, arrests, imprisonments, confiscated advertising automobiles, storms, falling tents, mobs, bodily injury to brethren. Cleveland brethren join me in sending love and greetings. All fighters for the New World will follow Greater Jephthah to final victory."—N. H. Knorr.

Flashes from Other Assemblies

Before considering the highlights of some of the convention reports from the 51 other cities tied in with Cleveland in the New World Theocratic Assembly, let us feel the pulse-beat of this huge combined Assembly by reading some of the many flashes sent in to the key city. A few of these crisp and succinct telegrams portray an epic struggle, and all show the Greater Jephthah's victorious sweep despite angry and violent demon opposition.

Friday evening, after the program from Cleveland:

"Reception perfect. 1000 in attendance. Discourses received with much enthusiasm. New instruments of Society received with tremendous applause."—Theocratic Tent, San Antonio, Texas.

"Five hundred New World publishers send greetings. Sword of the spirit gratefully received. Looking forward to using Jehovah's latest provision to his name's honor. We are determined to arise and shine to reflect the only light, come what may."—Knoxville Assembly, Tenn.

"Nearly 600 witnesses here received message and Bible tonight with much enthusiasm. Nearly 300 publishers out today. 50 information walkers picked up, but later released. With you full force to the end."—Lincoln Nebraska Assembly.

"Attendance 1500. Reception perfect. Ran out of everything but enthusiasm in twenty minutes."—Convention Jehovah's witnesses Minneapolis, Minn.

"Have 75 tents on grounds, where 1200 enthusiastically received under perfect reception the news of new Bible. Thanks to Jehovah. Your brethren fighting for The Theocracy."—Springfield Illinois Assembly.

"521 joyfully heard the opening address. Reception excellent. Bible release exhausted in five minutes. Enthusiasm high. Eglon's dupes threatening. Rejoicing in wielding sword of spirit."—Great Falls Theocratic Assembly, Mont.

Great Falls' Sunday message reports:

"Eglon and dupes failed. Instructions followed. Bluff failed. 865 attended. 56 immersed. Used both halls and cafeteria on hookup. Jehovah giveth the victory."

Kansas City, Mo., New World Theocratic Assembly tells a story in its telegrams on the three successive days:

"Lecture clear until about 7:25, when storm demolished tent. Attendance 1135."

"Satan and his demons unsuccessful in stopping the onward march of the New World Theocratic Government. By the Lord's grace the Theocratic convention tent has been again set up after last night's storm. The 'sword of the spirit' was enthusiastically received although one day late. Discourse 'Fighters for the New World' was exceptionally clear. Everyone rejoicing and giving praise and thanks to Jehovah. Attendance 1350."

"2278 heard 'Please—Can It Last?' Reception never better. Every word heard distinctly. Rejoicing with you in Theocratic blessings."

Interesting is the typographical error in the last quoted. All felt the same way, with perhaps the exception of a Los Angeles pioneer. One pioneer remarked: "Well, it looks like our joyful time is about over." A second pioneer replied: "Yes, and it's really a good thing. If the Assembly lasted another day the Society would be giving us cars and trailers, and our cup runs over now."

Telegrams following the discourse "Fighters for the New World" show the witnesses to be fighters and unanimously for the resolution then adopted:

"861 heard every word clearly. Thrilled with the meaning of program picture. Antitypical Jephthah's daughter joined with the remnant in unanimous adoption of resolution. Grateful for *New World*. Bibles not enough."—Portland Oregon Assembly.

"1096 Theocratic publishers assembled at Binghamton raised their lusty voices in one grand 'Aye' in voting passage of resolution and to show their joy in receiving such a wonderful message and the release of the new book. Reception over wires perfect."—Binghamton Assembly, New York.

"Marvelous reception. 1800 unanimously adopt resolution. All willingly submit to terms of Greater Jephthah's vow and they apply themselves with gladness serving him day and night at his temple. Rejoicing in Theocratic victory."—Louisville Kentucky Assembly.

"Amid torrents of cold rain all night and with many in unsheltered camps the Assembly goes on. 1610 braved the storm even when one tent split. Afternoon storm calms. Reception fine. All, like Jephthah's daughter, ready to go on. All say 'Aye'."—Oklahoma City Assembly, Okla.

"Perfect reception thrilled assembly of 6000 fighters for the New World. Rejoice with you in thanking Jehovah for the new marvelous instrument giving renewed zeal and love for our God to herald forth the Kingdom truths regardless of opposition in full harmony and obedience to instructions from the Greater Jephthah and his invisible organization. In this the 'daughter' rejoices to have part."—New York City Theocratic Assembly.

"Wonderful food from Jehovah's table received. Reception perfect. Snow here Friday. Warm and sunny today. Police and city officials deny police protection from mob violence threatened. 300 brethren push on obeying 'Higher Powers'."—Deadwood Convention Committee, S. Dak.

"Despite all efforts of enemy convention continues with lectures and releases. About 75 carloads engaged in mob violence, shot two and seriously hurt seven brethren. Mob violence continues without police protection."—Little Rock Assembly, Ark.

Sunday, after the lecture "Peace—

Can It Last?" these telegrams are a few of many received:

"Reception perfect. 3000 assembled here join all New World publishers in thanks to Jehovah for this real news flash from his holy temple. We look to the annihilation of the beastly combine and its rider. New book, booklets and 'sword of the spirit' received with tremendous enthusiasm. We follow the Greater Jephthah, responding to the 'Go ahead' signal."—Seattle Theocratic Convention, Wash.

"1576 gave rapt attention to public lecture. Reception faultless. Jephthah and daughter now out with the booklets. Immersion 55. Rejoicing with you, and greetings to all fighters for the New World."—Charleston West Virginia New World Assembly.

"Inspiring message received by over 8000. Reception perfect. Audience stampeded to get copies of lecture and book *New World*."—Los Angeles Theocratic Assembly, Calif.

"Speech marvelous, thrilling. Perfect reception at both assemblies. Went over with a bang. Grateful to Jehovah for victory over enemy. 835 hail the great Theocrat and his King."—Baton Rouge Assembly, La.

"Reception excellent. Marvelous revelation. Audience thrilled. Officials and judges in attendance. Attendance 758. Immersed 20."—Phoenix Arizona Assembly.

"Reception excellent. Attendance 450. 15 immersed. Mob violence defeated last night by owner of hall. Today after main talk U. S. soldiers tried to break up meeting. With you in the fight for the New World."—Albuquerque New Mexico Assembly.

"5500 completely overflow five auditoriums. Reception excellent. 99 immersed. *New World* books well received by public. Thankful to Jehovah for booklet. 'Peace' audience thrilled beyond words."—Detroit Theocratic Assembly, Mich.

Here's a real battle communique from the front at Klamath Falls, Oreg.:

"Sorry I was late in sending telegram. We have been fighting the mobsters who cut the wires, broke our windows, threw stink bombs, turned over and destroyed cars, for three hours. City police unable to handle mob, but lecture 'Peace—Can It Last?' was delivered by the chairman, by God's grace. Attendance about 1200. At the present time we are barricaded in building while mob is now a few blocks away. Will wire more details later."

Highlights of Greater Jephthah's Victory Sweep

Here are more details right now, on these and many of the other assemblies held in the various convention cities. The outstanding and dominant note of these reports is the tenacious fighting spirit of the New World Theocratists when demonized enemies try to break up their assemblies, and the ultimate victory of The Theocracy in every instance. Peace and tranquillity reigned at some of the assemblies, demonic opposition and violence shattered the serenity of others; but at all Jehovah's name was honored and a mighty witness given.

Birmingham, Ala.

The convention at Birmingham was held at a plunge, which proved to be ideal. The manager was reluctant at first, hearing Jehovah's witnesses were contrary with city officials and ordinances, and called Birmingham's chief of police. "Have those people come on to the city," came the response. "They are fine people to have around." So the beautiful Cascade Plunge, bounded on one side by a mountain, another by a lake, and the other two sides by grassy fields, was the pleasant setting of the New World Theocratic Assembly there. The cafeteria was at one end of the pool, assembly hall at the other, and the sides were flanked by dressing rooms and a much-needed grandstand seating 800. Conveniently located on the grounds were tents, house-cars and trailers.

After the immersion service a late arrival asked if it was too late to be baptized. The answer was no; the pool was right there. An announcement was made to this effect and six more who had been halting between two opinions joined this new arrival and swelled the total number immersed to 94.

Birmingham's assembly place

There were no policemen, no newspaper reporters, no trouble, and no kicks: only a unit of praise to Jehovah and the New World.

Mobile, Ala.

This was the scene of a signal defeat for the pressure methods of the Roman Catholic Hierarchy, and a display of real Americanism on the part of those upon whom the pressure was brought to bear. A contract was closed for the use of the Murphy High School Auditorium. Two days before the assembly the superintendent of schools told the convention servant and chairman that opposition had come in "like an avalanche". He admitted tremendous pressure had been brought to bear and said the contract would have to be broken. He was reminded the contract was valid. The witnesses continued advertising, trusting in Jehovah.

A servant of a foreign power, Bishop Toolen, publicly bewailed the Americanism of the school board who agreed to lease the auditorium to Christians "notwithstanding numerous protests from the American Legion, Knights of Columbus and the Holy Name Society". His rable-rousing tactics and pressure methods were of no avail. The school board still served the interests of American citizens. It didn't take orders from the representatives of papal Rome. The convention was held at the Murphy High School Auditorium.

Relations with the school authorities during the three days were most pleasant. Some attended the public meeting, expressed delight, and obtained literature. The last statement heard from one of the school authorities was: "Of all gatherings we have ever had here this one has been the most pleasant to us."

The city has recently become a shipbuilding center and a wartime boom is on. The witnesses, in trying to obtain rooms, were often met with the remark, "With this town already jammed you people will be left out." But the Lord ruled otherwise. One hundred rooms listed were not needed. Many accommodations were offered free. Space near by was offered free for a trailer camp by a person of good-will.

Two newspaper reporters laboriously took down in shorthand the lecture "Peace—Can It Last?" Immediately upon completion of the speech, they were each presented with a booklet containing the full text thereof. A plain-clothes policeman, who had arrested a pioneer several months ago, listened attentively. As he left he smiled approvingly and requested ten booklets to distribute among other policemen.

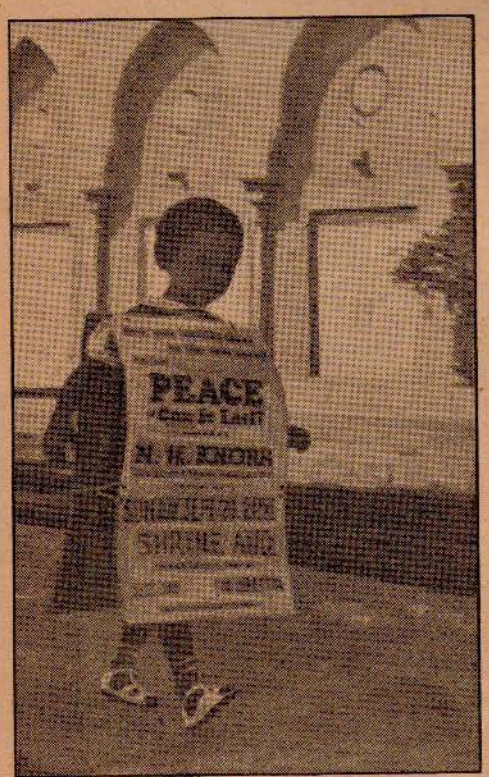
The conventioners were a joyful lot.

One carload of publishers were very happy notwithstanding they had had five flat tires in coming only 65 miles to the assembly and with the prospect of having many more on their return trip. Upon leaving the three-day feast many asserted that, due to so much food, they were suffering from "spiritual indigestion".

PHOENIX, ARIZ.

So far as numbers were concerned there was no great multitude here. But in another respect there was, in that those of white, black, brown and red skin were present. Scotch, Irish, Indians, Mexicans, Negroes, etc., were in attendance.

No difficulty was experienced so far as enemy action was concerned, despite threats made by juvenile officers. The public meeting drew a record crowd which was comprised of those of every walk of life. One in a position of authority in this dying old world's affairs was a judge of the Superior Court of Arizona.



A three-year-old at the Phoenix assembly hears the "Go ahead" signal

The Phoenix group felt that it was greatly blessed by the Lord, appreciated the privilege of having an assembly there, and was sure it greatly prospered because of it. In this all 51 of the other cities can join without reservation.

The sessions were held at the Shrine Temple and after the assembly was over the management sent a letter to the convention servant, stating: "I just want to express my appreciation of the fine atmosphere which prevailed during your convention days of the 18th, 19th and 20th of this month and the care which was taken of our auditorium during and after the meetings."

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

The collapse of freedom of worship at Little Rock was total. The convention was held there, but only because of the fact that the witnesses there were real fighters for the New World. First, hall cancellations complicated matters. Change of hall addresses three different times multiplied the difficulties of advertising, already great because of enemy interference.

Sleeping in the Country Club Hospital near Little Rock, safe from mobsters

The Brinkley Country Club Hospital was finally contracted for and used, but no telephone lines were available there. Arrangements were made for Cleveland hookups elsewhere. Only one was received direct, and that was "Fighters for the New World".

Mob violence, led by a priest of the Roman Catholic Hierarchy and sanctioned by the county sheriff and state police, made impossible receipt of the lecture "Peace—Can It Last?" direct from Cleveland, the lecture being delivered locally. Four separate mobbings were launched against the witnesses by hundreds of mobsters, sending six witnesses to the hospital, two of them being shot. No mobsters were arrested. Seven witnesses, mob victims, were arrested, two of them fined $25 and court costs and sentenced to thirty days in jail. A full account of these atrocities against Christians and those responsible for it appears in *Consolation* No. 604.

The convention servant concludes his report with a statement no one acquainted with the facts will question. He said: "Frankly, there was NOT ONE DULL MOMENT at the Little Rock New World Theocratic Assembly."

FRESNO, CALIF.

Anticipating 600, the Fresno gathering reports 1,500 in attendance. Two halls were packed out. The assembly was well advertised.

A bakery wagon, owned by witnesses and covered with advertising placards, was crashed into from behind and turned over two or three times. Its occupants, four boys, were unhurt. Also the bakery sign on the premises of these same witnesses, with a convention poster near by, was stolen. A little six-year-old girl witness, while advertising the public meeting, had her signs stripped from her by a grown man.

At the public meeting seven or eight religionists bearing Catholic prayer books and Bibles under their arms entered the hall. One began distributing papers. He was warned, refused to stop, and found himself on the outside. He begged permission to come in again, did, and thereafter behaved.

The newspapers asked for no information and none was offered except the signs of the times from one end of the town to the other. Without the Devil's mouthpiece the Fresno convention got along fine. The Theocracy was absolutely independent.

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

Three thousand witnesses participated in the work of advertising the lecture "Peace—Can It Last?" in this city. Comments on all sides could be heard by these Theocracy proclaimers as to the probable number of the "locust army". The popular estimate was 25,000, a compliment to the zeal of Jehovah's servants. An audience of 8,500 listened attentively to the talk Sunday, and eagerly reached for the booklets offered at its close.

Two features at the Los Angeles gathering were unusual. Due to a large Mexican population in the vicinity, arrangements were made to have Spanish meetings following the Saturday and Sunday discourses from Cleveland. "Peace—Can It Last?" was translated for a large audience who had responded to the many copies of the invitation letter which had been translated into Spanish and sent out. The other unique feature was the interpretation of all the lectures into sign language for the benefit of deaf-mutes. It was a joy to watch the expressions on the faces of

Springfield, Ill.: (1) Main assembly tent with flag flying, (2) cafeteria and (3) release of *The New World*

more than forty of these people as the message of the Kingdom was relayed to them and they realized what it would mean to live in that Kingdom without such handicaps.

At the close of the last meeting on Sunday evening it was announced that all pioneers should go to the cafeteria for the free distribution of remaining foodstuffs. All left the convention loaded down with spiritual nourishment from the Lord's table; the pioneers set out upon their homeward trek weighted down with spiritual and natural provender.

One of Los Angeles' "25,000"

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

Serene and joyful amidst a troubled world, Jehovah's witnesses of northern California met at the spacious Scottish Rite Temple in San Francisco for the New World Theocratic Assembly. For six days prior to the date of the convention's opening hundreds of publishers from the neighboring companies clustered about San Francisco bay advertised 'full steam ahead'. More handbills had to be printed. Over 100 streetcars carried advertisements of the Sunday lecture. Window signs were sprinkled throughout San Francisco's business section. A packed-out auditorium on Sunday afternoon was the fruit of their labors.

Friday afternoon, following the "Assembly for Advertising", a witness reports that while engaged in information walking downtown a man operating a newstand came across the street and said to him: "Say, do you have any more of those signs like you're wearing? I wish you would bring me some. I had some up but a bird who thinks he owns everything around here said he was going to tear them down. I told him if he did, not to do it while I was present. So I guess he made his word good. Later the signs were gone. I would like to have some more. I want to show him I believe in freedom of worship." He got his signs. This man also took several copies of *Consolation* and placed them with the public.

Comments after the big lecture Sunday were as follows: "From the opening remarks to the last word, every line had a punch in it and no mistaking its meaning." "A more forceful message was never delivered. The 'old girl' can't take that lying down." "Well, the old Hierarchy had her past dug up, her double-crossing present exposed, and her future revealed: so she is really naked now." One religionist, smarting under the sting of Bible truths, bemoaned: "We can't have lasting peace until you fellows go away." One witness placed 40 copies of *The New World* after the public meeting.

DENVER, COLO.

"The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold." There were no sluggards at the Denver assembly. With the first day of the convention came the first snow of the season—great white flakes floating down so thick it became difficult to drive a car.

Seven hundred attended the Friday session, and many of them engaged in street advertising despite the weather. One businessman remarked to a witness: "I've noticed you people, rain, shine, snow and below zero, offering those magazines. What is it that makes you people so loyal? You all just radiate pleasantness." The witnesses' being in the field of action in all kinds of weather bespeaks sincerity and a heart-felt desire to do God's will regardless of hindrances. Undoubtedly their faith proved by works impresses many.

ATLANTA, GA.

The American Legion engaged the City Auditorium for the time it was desired by Jehovah's witnesses. So the Atlanta Woman's Club was contracted for and used instead. The American Legion did not use the City Auditorium, thus disclosing their real motives in engaging it, and threatened both the witnesses and the club trustees. One prominent citizen called in to the club, identified himself by name and as spokesman for the Legion, and assured the convention servant that the advertised meeting would not be held in the club.

A meeting was held to discuss the situation, attended by the club trustees and their attorney, the fifth district commander of the American Legion and two of Jehovah's witnesses. The Legion commander stated his terms for calling off his hounds—a flag salute ceremony from the platform at the Sunday afternoon session. The position of Jehovah's witnesses relative to flag saluting was fully explained. His peace terms and ultimatum were rejected. The club officials stood by their contract and Jehovah's witnesses. A thorough witness was given and the commander thought of urgent business elsewhere and went off to mind it. No trouble occurred at the public meeting.

A reporter was in attendance and noted the flag on the speaker's platform and also was much impressed by a large copy of the pledge of allegiance made by Jehovah's witnesses. Its presence did much to forestall trouble and the reporter's write-up was fair.

The pledge is as follows:

Mobsters at Springfield, Ill., (1) parading behind cloak of patriotism and (2 and 3) being fought with tear gas

"I have pledged my unqualified allegiance and devotion to Jehovah, the Almighty God, and to His Kingdom, for which Jesus commands all Christians to pray.

"I respect the flag of the United States and acknowledge it as a symbol of freedom and justice to all.

"I pledge allegiance and obedience to all the laws of the United States that are consistent with God's law, as set forth in the Bible."

WAYCROSS, GA.

This convention was originally scheduled to take place in Jacksonville, Fla. It was finally held in the City Auditorium of Waycross. There was no opposition, and contact with city officials and police was pleasant. "It became more evident each day," the convention servant writes, "that the Lord directed us to this city." Here is a note turned in at the Waycross assembly which is doubtless one reason why the witnesses assembled there:

"I want to thank you for the booklet *Peace*. By God's grace I am through with religion. I came here to visit my soldier husband. Nowhere to go but a picture show until my train would leave. I decided, or God said, follow those signs, 'Peace.' I am going home and serve God. Will you write to me and show me how to do it? The Lord will have to help me to get rid of religion and hell, where I could have put Jehovah's witnesses a thousand times. Pray for me that I may become a meek sheep. When I went into the place I had no idea it was Jehovah's witnesses or maybe I would never have gone in there. I wanted peace and I found it."

EMMETT, IDAHO

Failing to secure a hall in Boise or other near-by towns, the convention in Idaho was held in Emmett, in the Liberty theater. There was no opposition evidenced until the assembly was over. On Monday morning the witness who had put up the large sign (three by twenty feet) in front of the theater was told that it had been taken down. He didn't believe it. He had slept in the information booth near by that night. But investigation showed it was gone. The witness breathed a relieved sigh and said: "I'm glad that is done. I've been dreading that job."

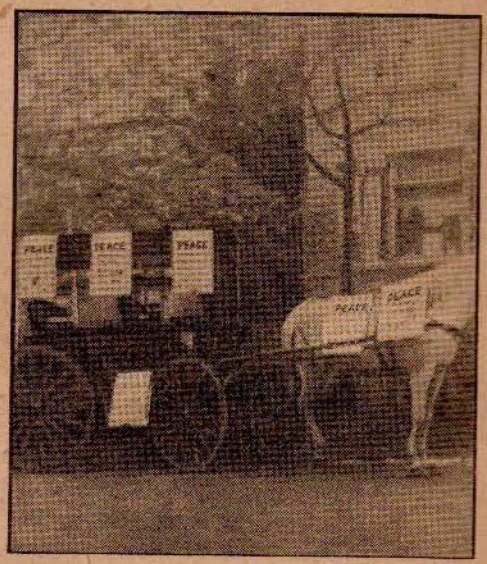
CHICAGO, ILL.

The Chicago conventioners went "all out" on advertising. Information walkers invaded the business sections in a concerted day and night offensive. One unique means, and one that attracted much attention in that large metropolis, was a horse-drawn surrey plastered with signs and the horse itself sported a sandwich sign. Rationing of gasoline and tires did not shorten the arm of this hay-burner in advertising The Theocracy. So intense and thorough was the advertising that the hall was packed. A priest sat in on the sessions each day, but was non-committal. If he came to make a report to his higher-ups he's probably still jabbering.

Although many threats of arrests were made if the witnesses continued their activity, only one was haled into the police station, and he was released after questioning. Incidentally, it was this publisher's first time in the field; and now he vows nothing can keep him from the witness work henceforth.

One witness with three little boys was handing out invitations to the public meeting. A very religious man drove by in his car diligently cursing the young Kingdom workers and—*Bango!* into the car ahead he slammed. Fenders on both cars were damaged. The police came. The religionist had no driver's license, was arrested, and will have the pleasure of fixing both cars.

Considerable echo from the sound system was in evidence all day Friday, and up until the opening program from Cleveland every known scheme was frantically tried. Suddenly, the voice of the Cleveland chairman came booming in that "The Theocratic Government works from the head down"; and from then on all was well.



Horse and buggy advertises at Chicago

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.

The place of gathering in Springfield was a city of tents, 75 of them being erected on level acreage just outside the city limits. A more substantial place of meeting was contracted for, but the word and contract of the lessors was and is worthless.

The city police of Springfield are also worthless when it comes to protecting democratic principles and civil rights and battling mob rule. Mob action against the witnesses flared forth Sunday morning and blazed on unhindered till far into the night. One crippled witness suffered a fractured leg. No mobsters were arrested; their victims were.

At the public meeting at the Theocratic Tent a mob of over 1,000 tried to disrupt the session, throwing missiles and assaulting the witnesses. They failed to accomplish their goal of destroying freedom of worship, and the result was that in addition to more

than 2,000 witnesses hearing the lecture "Peace—Can It Last?" the 1,000 religion-blinded dupes heard also, and fumed. The witnesses left the assembly more determined than ever to retain their integrity toward Jehovah and his Theocracy, and thus defeat persecution. (A full account of the odious mobocracy set up in Springfield during that time is aired in *Consolation* No. 604.)

LOUISVILLE, KY.

Place of gathering in Louisville

Louisville Theocracy publishers were greatly assisted in their advertising work by the police and newspapers, unwilling though these tools may have been. On September 12, the first day of the convention advertising, five information walkers were arrested, among them the convention servant. A circuit judge denied a writ of habeas corpus and justified the police arrests. Testimony was given in the courts before another judge practically all the following week and showed a concerted effort on the part of the city police to halt the advertising of the lecture "Peace—Can It Last?" Their schemes backfired in their face by virtue of the witness given and the widespread publicity given the assembly by the newspapers. All charges were either dismissed or filed away. The newspapers took sly pokes at the circuit judge who upheld the police, and commended the other judge who set the witnesses free.

Immediately following the arrests about 100 rooms were canceled due to this police action and the spread of many false rumors. After the acquittal in the courts and the fair write-ups in the newspapers, however, phone calls poured into the assembly headquarters concerning rooms available to the witnesses.

In the pleasant surroundings of Swiss Park the convention itself was held without disturbance. The Roman Catholic caretaker was delighted with his visitors and expressed appreciation of meetings where one could really learn something. He had never been able to learn anything at Catholic services conducted in French or Latin. He wholeheartedly concurred with every word of "Peace—Can It Last?" and declared that anyone who spoke against the witnesses showed ignorance. He found it difficult to understand how cafeteria merchandise and personal articles were left about unguarded, yet nothing stolen. If he had acted upon requests of friends, he said, he would have kicked the witnesses out of the park the first day; but he had watched the witnesses and talked with them and they were OK by him.

BATON ROUGE, LA.

The City Park Skating Rink was advertised as the place of gathering in Baton Rouge. The manager of the rink desired to live up to his contract as any honest person would; but the city council overruled him and canceled the arrangement, amid the cheers of Legionnaires and others of totalitarian spirit. But to do this they waited until less than 48 hours before the convention was scheduled to open, although they knew many days previously that the assembly was scheduled for the rink. They reasoned that denial of contract coming at this late hour would disrupt the convention. They reasoned wrongly.

A person of good-will offered a 13-acre tract of land for the assembly, but it wasn't possible to get wires there. The "tent stakes" of the Kingdom Hall were lengthened, tarpaulins being stretched far out from the roof and chairs placed underneath. Telephone and loudspeaker equipment was quickly installed in both white and colored halls and the convention opened on the dot.

These preparations were made while the contract cancellation was being contested in court. When the hearing before the judge became hot for the mayor and city council and the evidence began weighing heavily in favor of Jehovah's witnesses, the hearing was stopped. The judge's desired signature on a restraining order was refused, and time did not permit further appeal for the relief needed immediately. The wife of the skating rink manager was much displeased by the city's unjust action. She attended and thoroughly enjoyed the Sunday lecture.

The "American" Legion commended the city on its intolerance and offered their assistance "in any manner possible" in helping rid the community of the "cult". Mobs are their favorite manner.

The telegram sent to all convention cities was stamped as having arrived in Baton Rouge at 3:29 p.m. At seven the convention servant started calling the telegraph office asking if a telegram had arrived for them from Cleveland. They said there was none. This was repeated several times in the next hour. Finally the telegram was delivered, five and one-half hours after its arrival, and then to the wrong hall. At the bottom of Western Union Telegrams it says: "The company will appreciate suggestions from its patrons concerning its service." It is suggested the company get someone more competent or less crooked in its Baton Rouge office.

ROCKPORT, ME.

In Maine Jehovah's witnesses assembled at Witham's Lobster Pound, located on two acres of beautifully wooded land on the rocky shores of Penobscot bay.

During the advertising work on Friday, Rockland officials haled 18 of the Christians into custody and tried them in court Saturday and these were found guilty of worshiping God without Rockland's permission.

Line forms for the cafeteria in the assembly hall at Rockport, Me.

Just before the time to hear the stirring opening messages from Cleveland, in dashed a young naval lieutenant with some men from the near-by base declaring that reports had been received of hearing what sounded like a "secret German radio in the vicinity broadcasting a code". Upon learning the facts and noting the sound system the agitated young lieutenant calmed down and very courteously apologized

for interrupting the assembly, and left, wishing the witnesses a successful reception from Cleveland.

On Saturday morning, while local minions of the law were dispensing "justice", the "locust bands" from the convention again visited Rockland amid the religionists' great howls of vexation and dismay, in that the witnesses, having once been warned and arrested, would have the temerity to return to their exclusive town. The rabble element took charge and threatened summary action and promised, "Blood will be shed tonight." That afternoon the witnesses heard "Fighters for the New World", and thereafter made the necessary preparations to protect the gathering and receive the mobsters in the only way they can understand. The state police were also notified of the dire threats made.

Just as the evening session was about over, the unwelcome callers arrived, about ten carloads of them. Simultaneous with their arrival, however, came the state police, who inquired of the mobsters the reason of their visit. "We're going to drive these blankety blank blanks out of town. They won't salute the flag, etc." "Listen," said the police, "when there's a law to make these people salute we'll see that they do it. Until then you get the h—— out of here." So, breathing threats of return visits on the morrow, they 'got the h—— out'.

The threats were empty, never materializing, and the convention ended peacefully and another triumph in the Greater Jephthah's long string of victories was chalked up.

Baltimore, Md.

The only excitement in Baltimore was when a crazed religionist raced up and down the street with a gun threatening to shoot Jehovah's witnesses. They were everywhere, yet he couldn't see them. So nobody was shot.

The stage was beautifully decorated by ferns and two large signs, one of the yeartext and the other a welcome to the New World Theocratic Assembly. These two signs were artistically painted by a U. S. soldier and a Jonadab active as a soldier of Christ Jesus.

One attendant at the sessions was an elderly man who had first glimpsed the Kingdom when a lad of 14 years, in 1882, when he had read some of the syndicated talks in the newspapers. Many years later he subscribed for *The Watchtower* and *The Golden Age* (now *Consolation*), and now has obtained most of the publications from pioneers who occasionally penetrate to his native village of 40 persons and 3 churches, Sleepy Creek. He read of the New World Theocratic Assembly in *The Watchtower*, and for the first time in his life assembled with the Lord's people. Asked if he would like to join in the street advertising, he quickly responded 'yes', and into a car with seven young folks this 75-year-old Jonadab was packed. At the end of two hours' witnessing he was missing. Found later, he explained that a cop had told him to keep moving; so he did, all over Baltimore! He returned home loaded with Theocratic ammunition to fire in an effort to wake up Sleepy Creek.

Detroit, Mich.

On September 12 the secretary of the Moose Temple, having contracted with Jehovah's witnesses for their convention, called the servant in charge to his office and announced the hall would not be available to the witnesses under any condition. It was available, however, and the condition was an injunction granted by a circuit court judge.

Press photographers came down to the Moose Temple that Saturday afternoon to take pictures of the witnesses being ejected from their convention headquarters. They were disappointed; for the witnesses did not 'eject'.

The ones exerting pressure on the officers of the Moose Temple were, as usual, the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Knights of Columbus, and the churches. In reality, they greatly aided the assembly, in this way: During the court hearings other halls were obtained for use in the event that Moose Temple could not be used. When the restraining order was issued these other halls were retained too, since the witnesses had contracted for them and do not break their agreements. The result was that instead of just filling the Moose Temple on Sunday, five halls were packed out!

The demons vented their spleen against the children witnesses, causing the arrest of a score of parents and children under child labor laws. This will result in a still greater testimony against the conspirators. One little witness of Jehovah effectively squelched a bullying policeman, who had slurred her qualifications to preach the gospel, by quoting: "Have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?"

'Wisdom uttereth her voice in the streets' of Detroit

Duluth, Minn.

In Duluth the Shrine Auditorium was the most suitable quarters for the gathering, but because of the protest raised when the witnesses met there in July, 1940, the managers refused to rent to the witnesses, stating that they couldn't again bear the "heat" as it was turned on by religionists on the former occasion. All other auditoriums were denied. While negotiating for a large tent in which to assemble, a telephone call came from the Shrine. No one could dictate to them as to who might rent their auditorium, they declared, and the witnesses again assembled in the Shrine Auditorium.

This obstacle cleared, everything progressed unhindered and the witnesses were exceptionally well-treated by Duluth. Police co-operation was splendid and unlimited parking was granted all cars advertising "Peace—Can It Last?" The Duluth Street Transit Company gave free advertising space on the buses, large placards being so placed that they could be read from the outside or inside. Four publishers ordered a big dinner in a restaurant following field service and, when they attempted to pay the bill, were informed by the proprietor, "I'll take care of this," and he flatly refused to accept payment.

Minneapolis, Minn.

There was only one unhappy man at this convention, and that was the concessioner at the Minneapolis Auditorium, where the witnesses met. He stocked up with fifty cartons of ciga-

rettes and a large supply of cigars and was flabbergasted when he didn't sell a single one.

The lost and found department operated efficiently, recovering divers and sundries articles ranging from hair bows to babies.

There was not one case of trouble or opposition reported and the convention thoroughly advertised the name of Jehovah and The Theocracy, which was its purpose.

Great Falls, Mont.

Satan's henchmen here provided just enough opposition to add spice to the assembly, yet all the meetings took place without undue disturbance. The first indication that trouble was brewing came Friday afternoon when the management of the Masonic Temple requested removal of a large sign on the building advertising the convention. The sign remained until the convention closed. Saturday, the convention servant was asked to meet with the trustees. They declared threats of violence had been made and 'in order to prevent bloodshed and damage to their building' demanded the witnesses move "out on a hillside someplace". They ruled that there would be no meetings in the temple Sunday. The one who was mayor in 1940 and representatives of a labor union and the Veterans of Foreign Wars were present to exert the necessary pressure on the Masonic group. The wolf pack of newspaper reporters were waiting outside to cover the anticipated rout of Jehovah's witnesses. But the witnesses didn't budge.

Several publishers remained in the hall all night to keep possession. The keys had been taken from the janitor and given to one of the opposers, who came in and officiously announced that everyone was to leave the hall so he could lock up. The witnesses were not impressed; none left. He pleaded and cajoled and again demanded; but the witnesses were not leaving until legal steps were taken to evict them. The door was finally locked with the witnesses still in possession. Five o'clock Sunday morning many of the other witnesses were telephoned and told of the difficulties and they came down and helped hold the enemies at bay. The convention schedule was completed as arranged in the temple, and not "out on a hillside someplace".

A prominent Mason told the convention chairman that he "was ashamed

Spending the night in the hall at Great Falls to keep possession

that you folks have been treated in this manner and want you to know that the trouble is not coming from order-loving Masons, but from a dirty, rotten, low-down politician [he named the mayor of 1940]. I want you to tell your people this." The president of the Masonic order and the county sheriff both pulled for the witnesses in the interests of freedom.

As the tired yet happy and triumphant witnesses filed out of the Masonic Temple Sunday night the remarks ran something like this: "The best convention ever," "Wouldn't have missed it for the world," "I'll be at the next one if it's in China."

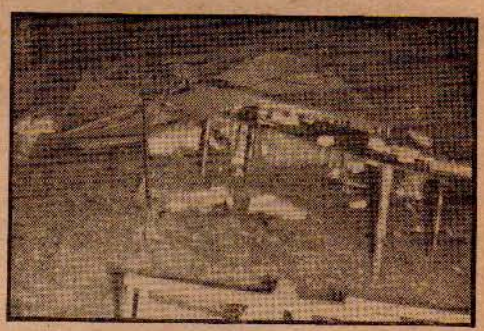
Kansas City, Mo.

Those who attended the Assembly as held at Kansas City will long remember the fearsome and spectacular collapse of the Theocratic Convention Tent there, and with thankful hearts give credit to Jehovah God for their miraculous deliverance from serious bodily injury. The tent's fall under the storm's fury came suddenly and without warning during the Friday evening session. The talks were coming in from Cleveland and everyone was filled with the desire to grasp every single utterance. As the talks continued, the enthusiasm of those assembled mounted, and while some of the listeners may have been aware of the wind shoving against the tent and the raindrops thudding on the big canvas top, none gave it particular notice, so great was their absorption in the message pouring from the loudspeakers.

Eyewitnesses state that a cyclonic blast caught the tent simultaneously on all four corners, inflating it like a giant balloon and creating such a tremendous pull on the guy ropes that one of the stakes holding one of the main tent poles in place was wrenched loose and thrown higher than the tent itself and immediately the huge structure sagged and swayed crazily and collapsed upon 1,135 witnesses assembled beneath.

Before the tent settled down in its final spasm a witness pulled the main switch to the lighting circuit, throwing pitch blackness over all but forestalling any injury which might have resulted from live wires being mixed in the wreckage below. Eleven hundred and thirty-five came forth from under this tangled mass of iron and wooden poles (some of which were six inches in diameter), ropes, wires and wet canvas to face the full force of the storm. Divine protection is unquestionable in view of the fact that but one person was injured by the calamity. The absence of fear on the part of the witnesses, even the children, was remarkable.

The tent was repaired and once again erected, the convention continued on, and the people of Kansas City were surprised to see the New World fighters calling at their homes the next day preaching the gospel. They thought the witnesses would 'forsake the assembling of themselves together' after Friday evening's wild experience. Kansas City responded by arresting 17 Kingdom publishers, who were released on $25 bail and later dismissed.



Tent down in the storm at Kansas City. Sound equipment undamaged

Lincoln, Nebr.

The city officials did not wait until the convention opened to press upon the witnesses the shelter of the police station. On September 12 fifteen were taken down for questioning, but later released. Sixty-five were picked up on the Saturday of the assembly, and nine on Sunday. On Tuesday following the three-day session fifteen were found guilty of advertising a Bible lecture by means of signs on their cars. The cases were appealed. The Yellow Cab Company, usually reluctant to do any advertising, carried signs advertising "Peace—Can It Last?" on their vehicles for four days and at a low rate.

They refused to yield to complaints and the signs stayed put. And they were not arrested.

At the trial the judge was jolted out of his customary judicial composure when swearing in one of Jehovah's witnesses. Instead of immediately assenting to the oath, the witness paused to inquire, "What does this mean?" "Don't you know," queried the judge. "It seems plain enough to me. You swear to tell the truth." "What I want to know is," replied the publisher, "does this guarantee that I will be *permitted* to tell the *whole* truth?" No, it didn't mean that.

BERNALILLO, N. MEX.

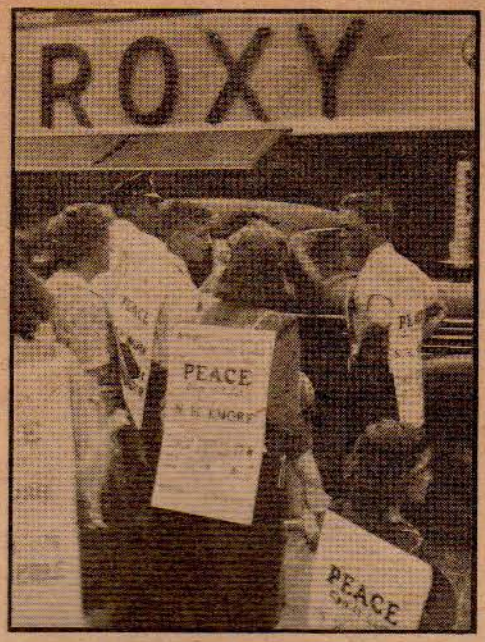
This convention was threatened with mob violence all three days, but by the Lord's grace serious trouble was avoided. Friday evening, after the session, the convention servant and two other witnesses went before a group of men assembled at the courthouse. They had organized for the purpose of running Jehovah's witnesses out of town, and included in the gangsters were a deputy sheriff and a state patrolman. The witnesses spoke for an hour and a half. The mobsters asked questions, and they were answered from the Scriptures, which greatly riled them. The mere mention of the Bible enraged the demons possessing these men.

Saturday night they came to the hall, accompanied by three U. S. soldiers, to carry out their threats. The owner of the hall, who was also present at the previous evening's discussion at the courthouse, turned out to be a real fighter, for the witnesses! One of the soldiers broke a window, and he had him arrested and put in jail; and he hit one of the obstreperous townsmen over the head with his gun and put the whole motley crew to flight.

On Sunday a truckload of soldiers returned to do the job up right, as the local law officers gave them free rein to do their worst. But their plans went awry: one of the soldiers got in a fight with one he thought was a witness but who was really one of the mobsters, and he was badly cut up; and then the military police wagon came and took the soldiers away. Another victory granted by Jehovah for The Theocracy.

ALBANY, N. Y.

Albany officials and others fought against the convention, but did not prevail against it. A total of sixty publishers were picked up by the police on



Albany information walkers being arrested and taken to police station

Friday; Saturday they herded in 200 to the police precincts, and Sunday grew weary and corraled only six. Of this number only two were arrested.

During this time Catholic Action was fighting The Theocracy on other fronts. A telephone call came from the mayor's secretary to the superintendent of the building where the witnesses were assembled, demanding that he oust the Christians assembled there. The superintendent acted like an American, in sharp contrast to the mayor's office, and answered that a contract had been entered into and signed by himself and the convention servant, which contract would not be violated unless there were unlawful activities going on. He informed the secretary that the witnesses were law-abiding citizens, pursuing a lawful course, and that he wouldn't close them out. The superintendent further advised that it was not these people who were violating any laws, but that the trouble was with the police who were interfering with their work!

In close succession to this call came another, this time from a group that held bingo games in the hall. The superintendent was informed that if he didn't eject the witnesses they would not rent his hall again for their bingo games. Quick as a flash came the stinging rebuke that "the witnesses had as much right to hire the hall for their purposes as you do", and added that if they didn't like it they could go elsewhere with their bingo parties!

Some threat of trouble arose at the trailer camp and a plank with spikes driven through it was placed in the gateway to discourage any motorized rush. It was successful. One unwelcome caller came and left with flat tires. No others called.

BINGHAMTON, N. Y.

At the beautiful Kalurah Temple, one of the finest and largest halls in Binghamton, the New World Assembly serving that vicinity was held. There was no excitement other than that provided by the surprise releases of the thrilling convention itself.

One of the witnesses on the street had a new experience. Often falsely and viciously accused of being for Hitler, this publisher was startled when accosted by an elderly gent who sternly demanded she vacate the streets. "And why?" she inquired. "Because," he snapped, "you people are against religion and Hitler."

One group of Jehovah's witnesses, all "live wires", came to this assembly in a hearse. Others, in order to "rest in peace", secured rooming accommodations at a local undertaking parlor.

NEW YORK, N. Y.

New Yorkers were made to know about the New World Theocratic Assembly. No matter where you went you would almost certainly see the witnesses on the streets advertising the lecture "Peace—Can It Last?" You went into the subway—any subway—and there were Jehovah's witnesses offering invitation folders to New Yorkers. A horse-drawn surrey covered with placards advertised by touring Broadway, Fifth Avenue and Park Avenue. The intensive advertising brought results.

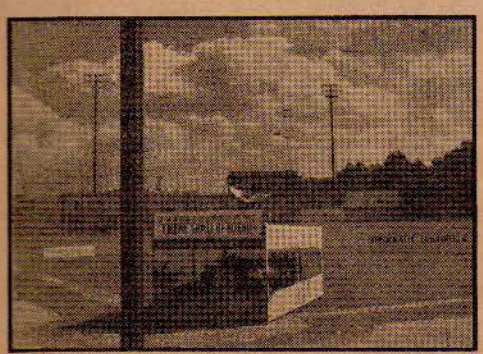
Advertising in New York city (1) in the rain, and (2) ready to go

Manhattan Center in New York city "packed out" for the public lecture

Manhattan Center, with its seating capacity of 8,000, had been comfortably adequate during the first two days of the assembly when between 5,000 and 6,000 were present. Came two o'clock Sunday afternoon and the main auditorium was completely filled. An overflow hall, prepared for this contingency, was soon packed. Still they kept coming! The doors were closed and 2,000 were turned away. Some of these heard the talk by tuning in car radios to the Watchtower station, WBBR.

At a few points violence broke out, but those occasions were rare. One instance was an attack on an aged publisher who had just left the prison-house of Catholicism and had been immersed Sunday morning. Straight from the place of baptism he went to the field with placards advertising the lecture. A demonized individual left the Catholic priest he was talking to and pounced on this aged witness, knocking him down and breaking his leg. A U. S. soldier saw the attack, knocked the assailant down, and in response to this coward's cry that he was a Catholic said, "I am a Catholic too; but these people have a right to do this work." The one committing the assault now languishes in prison.

It is said, "Where there's smoke, there's fire"; but the opposite is true of an assembly of Jehovah's witnesses. There is plenty of fire but none of them smoke. A policeman wanted a match for his cigarette. None was forthcoming; no one seemed to have one. Turning in disgust he muttered, "What sort of bunch is this?" A young Jonadab, noting the officer's distress, asked, "What do you want?" "I wanna match," said the irate policeman. "You'll not find one here," came the reply. "This is a matchless people."



Speaker's stand on the ball diamond of the park used at Charlotte, N. C.

Charlotte, N. C.

Griffith Park baseball field was the assembly site. On the home plate stood the speaker's platform, draped in the peach color of the book *The New World* and having large baskets of peach-colored gladioli and green ferns decorating it.

There was some question as to whether this ball park would be available for the convention, depending upon the manner in which the local ball club fared in its final games of the season. If it won, championship series would claim the ball park. There were four final games to play. If the local club lost all four they wouldn't need the park. They lost four straight.

One of the witnesses was confined to a hospital during the Assembly. He was greatly distressed at not being able to hear "Peace—Can It Last?" Other witnesses, knowing this, arranged for him to be brought to the ball park in an ambulance to hear the lecture. He enjoyed every word as it flowed from the speaker's lips in Cleveland. Thirty zealous Cherokee Indians were at the gathering and many more from the same tribe would have been present had transportation been available. They will form a part of the "great multitude".

Bismarck, N. Dak.

The City Auditorium was obtained for the convention. No remuneration was asked for the hall on condition that the American flag be displayed on the stage, which was done. Peace reigned at this assembly and the town was favorably impressed with its visitors.

Two experiences are interesting. The manager of the largest hotel in Bismarck answered when a witness expressed appreciation for service received: "Thank *you!* I've never in my life seen people like you. We've had conventions here and had to have three policemen on each floor. Last night I went to bed and slept, because I knew everything would be all right this morning." A man approached to get a room in this hotel. "Are you a Jw?" asked the clerk. "No," was the startled reply. "Then I'm sorry, we have no rooms. They are full of Jw's."

Jw traffic man to old gentleman who was one of the civic authorities and wanted to park his car in front of the auditorium: "No parking here. Police orders." Reply: "What are all these children doing with those signs on? They should be in school. What will they be like 25 years from now?" Traffic man: "You should worry; you'll be dead then."

Oklahoma City, Okla.

The convention site was a 17-acre wooded plot bordering a creek. In a grassy clearing two large tents were erected for the meeting assemblies, while many small tents and trailers squatted in among the surrounding trees.

Anticipating that line construction

Oklahoma City: (1) stringing phone lines to the Theocratic tent, (2) sheep truck that brought many witnesses to the assembly, (3) some came by covered wagon, (4) the crowd gathered in the big tent and (5) some young witnesses examining *The New World*.

To the right: The Jw parking lot at Klamath Falls after the mob's depredations, showing some of the many cars overturned

would be limited due to priority an effort was made to secure enough wire to span the 1500-foot gap between the Theocratic tent and the telephone company's lines. Three hundred pounds of wire used for electric fences was secured. The telephone company, as expected, stated they were not permitted to construct the necessary lines, so the witnesses cut and set poles and strung four wires to span the gap. Tests were made, the final OK received, and all was in readiness for the New World Theocratic Assembly.

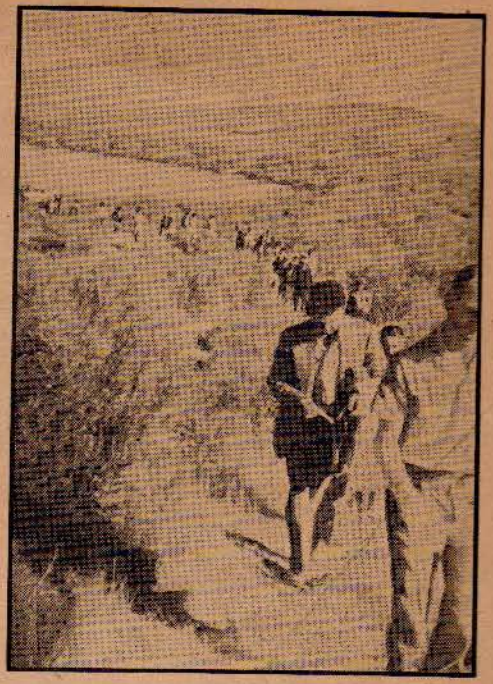
Friday night Satan and his demons tried to break the spirit of Jehovah's people, raising a violent storm. A torrential rain measuring two and three-quarters inches fell in a short time and split the large tent. It was cold and miserable but the spirits of the witnesses were not dampened, and the assembly continued on.

Conventioners at Oklahoma City had plenty of temporal food. A six-hundred-pound beef was butchered and consumed by hungry fighters for the New World.

Klamath Falls, Oreg.

Klamath Falls became notorious by reason of its treatment of Jehovah's witnesses during the assembly held there. Officials and leading citizens organized and led mobs against these Christian people, stoned them, threw stench bombs into their assembly hall, cut telephone wires, overturned scores of automobiles belonging to the witnesses, burned their clothes and Bible literature, and in other ways conducted themselves as star pupils of Nazism.

A mob of 1,500 besieged the witnesses for over four hours in their hall and by their violence injured many men, women and children. The mobsters were dispersed only after the state militia arrived and took decisive action against them, in sharp contrast with the despicable course followed by Klamath Falls' police chief. The FBI is now investigating to determine the causes and the ones responsible for the



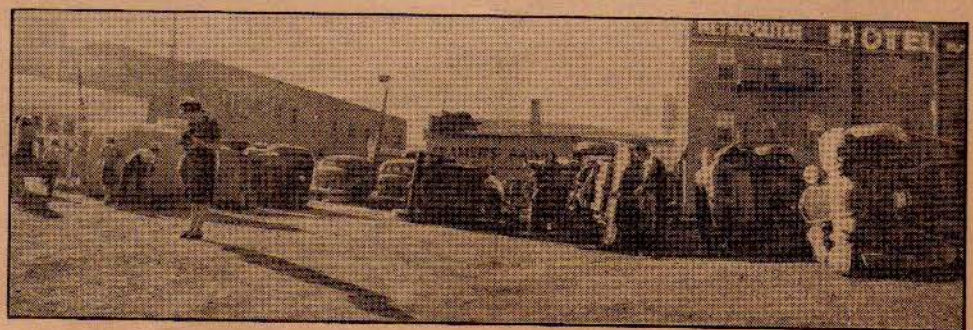
To the lake for immersion at Klamath Falls

Nazification of this city.

The lawless ones did not succeed in breaking up the assembly. It reached its scheduled conclusion despite the demoniacal mob. The Greater Jephthah gave the victory to the witnesses there, who acquitted themselves admirably as fighters for the New World. A full account of the outrages perpetrated at Klamath Falls is published in *Consolation* magazine No. 604.

Providence, R. I.

Providence had a gathering unmarred by enemy opposition, despite many threats, none of which materialized. The Arena provided ample space, both in the way of an auditorium and a cafeteria. The manager on one occasion came to the Arena greatly disturbed. Someone had informed him the witnesses were taking down the flag that regularly graced the auditorium. He watched for more than an hour to see the conventioners' attitude toward it, on finding it still in place. He was frankly puzzled as the witnesses did not seem to know it was there. He



later learned the lie started in his own office. One office girl protested, ignorantly, "These Jehovah's witnesses are too religious. All they talk about is the Bible." The manager replied: "They are at least honest and God-fearing people and are not always coming in here to run a bingo gambling game as your church is always trying to do."

One witness entered a tavern, played the phonograph to 28 persons, and received a contribution of $1 toward the work from the tavern-keeper. Another publisher was informed by a young man that he knew all about the "Peace" lecture because his priest had discussed it at church. He didn't listen to his priest, but took literature and treated the witness to a soda.

DEADWOOD, S. DAK.

With the arrival of the convention in Deadwood on Friday morning came an inch of snow, but the two following days were clear and mild; that is, the weather was mild.

Saturday the chief of police called and requested the witnesses remain off the streets. His request was politely refused. He admitted it was Catholic Action applying the pressure, and said the mayor had sent him. Later he returned with the mayor and demanded the publishers stay off the streets. They had just passed an emergency ordinance prohibiting the advertising work of Jehovah's witnesses on the streets. They feared mob violence. The witnesses did not. They went out despite threats of mob violence and arrests. Many had their placards torn off and magazines were ripped in two and thrown in the street. One lady witness had her hair pulled and the assaulter got a good crack on the head from another witness's camera. The results of obeying God rather than men was, no one hurt, no arrests, and a witness given.

Police protection was given for the Sunday lecture, and while cars loaded with mobsters drove by, none had the courage to start anything. It is interesting to note that whereas an assembly was held in Deadwood, known as a "wide open town" and one of the toughest in the country, "South Dakota's friendly city" Mitchell would not tolerate a Christian gathering there.

KNOXVILLE, TENN.

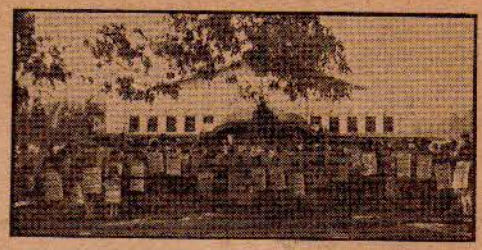
The Knoxville assembly had its mob action during the final discourses on Sunday evening, and continued on until 2 a.m. the next morning. A mob of men and boys on foot and in cruising cars, armed with sticks, stones, plumbing tools and pipes, surrounded the Palace Roller Rink (the convention site) and hurled their missiles at the assembly. All the while this assault was vigorously resisted by the witnesses there assembled. The police were summoned by the witnesses but they showed little inclination to halt the mobsters. One of them told Jehovah's witnesses they were not wanted, and why didn't they leave. He was told religionists were behind the trouble, and he replied, "The Catholics are back of this." This was substantiated by a party called on in the witness work who informed the publisher that the Catholics were going to wreck the assembly. They didn't. One of the mobsters in his car tried to run down witnesses on foot, hitting one old man who couldn't move quickly enough to escape. This culprit was identified later to a deputy, but the request that he be arrested was refused.

Other persons of Knoxville and vicinity received the witnesses kindly. Many refused to accept payment for the rooms occupied by the conventioners. Two young witnesses had been assigned rooms in a private home, and, upon arrival there, found the people of the house were going away for the week-end. The lady of the house 'turned the place over to them'. Both the young men were total strangers to her, but she said she had read some of the WATCHTOWER literature and knew what kind of people the witnesses were.

The A.T. & T. attendant who heard the address "Fighters for the New World" was very desirous of hearing "Peace—Can It Last?" Another technician was scheduled for Sunday, but by manipulating things the interested attendant was there Sunday, expressed his desire to live in the new world, and proved it by obtaining a copy of *The New World*.

MEMPHIS, TENN.

The witnesses assembled in a wide variety of places in the different convention cities tied in with Cleveland in the New World Theocratic Assembly—tents, ball parks, plunge, roller skating rink, garages, high-school auditoriums and other auditoriums large and small throughout the country. Memphis witnesses met in a night club, the Silver Slipper. It had not been open for some time, and when the owner was approached concerning its



Information walkers in front of the Silver Slipper night club, ready to advertise

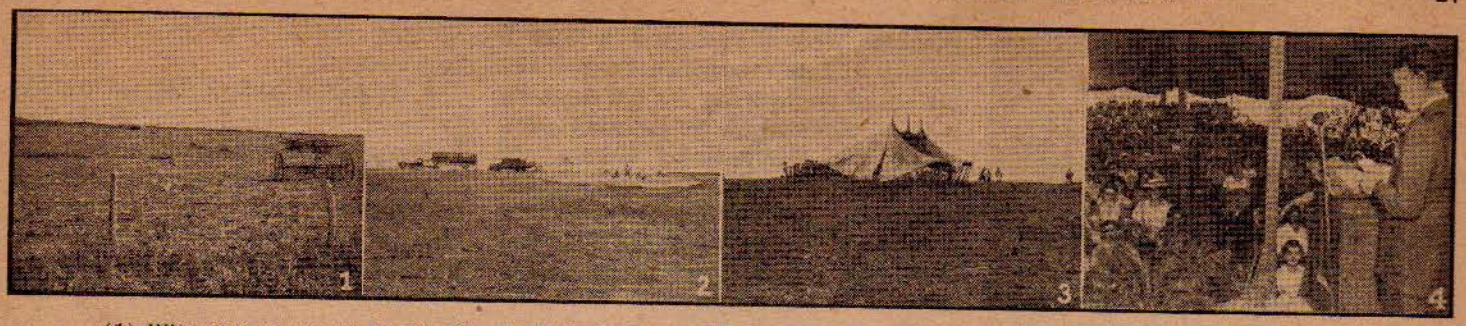
use he replied: "You can have it free if you want to clean it up for your convention. Just so you leave it in as good condition as you got it." So it came about that Jehovah's witnesses there celebrated the New World Theocratic Assembly in a night club.

Sunday evening interesting experiences were related by the conventioners, among which was the following: A colored witness was baptizing an aged man. A religious onlooker remarked: "That old man has waited a long time to get religion." To which a witness near by replied: "You are wrong there. He's just waited a long time to get rid of his religion." The onlooker was nonplused.

DALLAS, TEXAS

Immersion at White Rock creek, Dallas

Threats were made by police officials that they would arrest all of Jehovah's witnesses, if necessary, to prevent any advertising work being done in Dallas. It would have been necessary to arrest all of them had they attempted to carry out their threat. It proved to be mostly bluff. Only ten were arrested during the convention and the three days previous thereto, despite the intensive advertising work in and about Dallas. One Catholic lady was so incensed at the treatment and unjust arrests that she opened her home to the witnesses and deplored the shameful manner in



(1) Witnesses mowing field after San Antonio cancellation, (2) tent spread out, (3) going up and (4) filled to capacity

which Dallas police used them. Here is a gratifying letter sent to the chairman of the Dallas convention:

"Chairman of the Watchtower Conv.
Vickery, Texas.
"Dear Mr. Dixon:

"Your room assignment committee arranged for my entire Tourist Courts during the three-day convention held at Vickery Park September 18, 19, 20, 1942. There were upward of 75 Jehovah's witnesses that roomed at my courts each day of the convention.

"After agreeing to let the witnesses have my entire courts during their convention I was told that they were undesirable and that I would be sorry that I turned my camp over to them.

"This letter is to express my regard and highest esteem for Jehovah's witnesses. It was a real pleasure to meet a group of people who were the most considerate, kind and the easiest to please and serve of any group that have ever stayed at my place. . . . I saw not one of them using tobacco. There were no empty liquor bottles left behind. They were all a quiet, courteous and considerate people, and therefore I take pleasure in acknowledging this and to extend a permanent invitation to Jehovah's witnesses to come to my courts when passing my way. Should the Watchtower ever arrange another convention here my entire courts are at your service.

"I attended the convention on Sunday afternoon and heard the lecture 'Peace'. I now have the books *Children*, *New World*, and some booklets and I intend to know more about the teachings of Jehovah's witnesses.

"With sincere best wishes, I remain,
Mrs. Cora Reynolds"

HOUSTON, TEXAS

Wednesday previous to the convention 8 witnesses were arrested for carrying "sandwich boards" advertising the coming Assembly. Saturday during the Assembly 35 were arrested and charged with carrying signs without a permit. Unjust discrimination against the witnesses by the official element of Houston was apparent.

A lady of good-will reported to the assembly a phone call from a friend of hers, wherein this friend said: "I'm so boiling mad over that article in the paper today stating that eight of those Jehovah's witnesses were arrested. My sister in west Texas is one of them, and a better woman never lived. I wish you would tell some of those Jehovah's witnesses here in Houston to come out and plaster their advertising signs all over my place!" Needless to say, the lady got her signs.

Two men were watching the witnesses with the advertising signs on the street. One said to the other: "Oh, they will all get picked up before long." The other exclaimed: "Why, man, it's impossible to get 'em all. They say there are 144,000 of them in town, besides a great multitude!"

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Three months before the New World Theocratic Assembly the Municipal Auditorium was contracted for in San Antonio. The mayor approved it. Three days before the Assembly the mayor canceled the contract. He was fearful of mob violence and too timid to take a stand for democracy but capitulated to mob rule. Some of the witnesses met with the mayor and city commissioners, which meeting was attended by American Legionnaires, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and clergymen, though no one explained why this rabble was present, and it wasn't necessary. Obviously they were the ones running the city; they pulled the strings and the city officials were the puppets: the cancellation must stand.

At the conclusion of this meeting one commissioner said, "All Americans will stand and salute the flag." The newspapers published a picture of this scene, under heading "Refuse to Salute the Stars and Stripes". From this picture it was seen that the witnesses and Herman Nami, Legionnaire, refused to salute. Why didn't Nami salute after bellyaching so much about the witnesses' not saluting?

An injunction was sought and hearing held. The attorney for the witnesses had a perfect case but wasn't permitted to cite briefs in support thereof. The judge said, "My mind is thoroughly made up." This was indicated before he heard any of the evidence. The relief sought was denied.

In addition to this, a folder entitled "City Submits to Mobocracy!" was widely distributed exposing the un-American actions of city officials, American Legion, and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

During these busy three days on the legal front, the witnesses were preparing another place of assembly. A large tract four miles out from San Antonio, owned by one of the witnesses, was used. The field was mown and raked, several large tents erected, chairs moved in, sound equipment installed, and the numerous other jobs essential to holding the assembly completed in time. The telephone company did a double-quick job of running three-quarters of a mile of poles and wire to this point; a remarkable act in view of present conditions. San Antonians were amazed at the resourcefulness of the witnesses and the speedy work performed in setting up this arrangement; even the Lord's people were mildly surprised, but they knew it was made possible by Jehovah God to administer another defeat of persecution.

SEATTLE, WASH.

It was anticipated that 950 publishers would attend the assembly at Seattle, and 2,000 were expected at the Sunday lecture. Sixteen hundred publishers were present, and Sunday the auditorium was packed out by 3,000 and a hundred or more turned away.

The intensity of the advertising was undoubtedly largely responsible for the swelling attendance. Nearly 800 outdoor billboard signs from placard size on up were used; 1,000 store-window

Pictures one and two show a Seattle Kingdom Hall which was turned into a sign shop prior to the convention to prepare signs for advertising the lecture "Peace—Can It Last?" (3) An 86-year-old witness just immersed at this assembly and now out in the service and (4) a 92-year-old pioneer publisher. (5) Looking over the victuals at the cafeteria in Seattle

placards were placed, and a float 9 feet by 22 feet was drawn through the streets 10 hours a day for ten days. So many publishers from outlying companies and the "isolated territory to the north" were on hand to aid in the advertising starting September 12 that a cafeteria was set up at the Kingdom Hall and hundreds of meals served prior to the assembly.

SPOKANE, WASH.

Sunday the hall, supposed to seat less than 1,000, had over 1,500 jammed in it. Those crowded about on the outside heard through the open windows. The book *The New World* was taken outside after the lecture and many were thus placed. One lady contributed $10, refusing change.

A remarkable feature of this assembly was that out of approximately 850 publishers attending, 786 different ones engaged in the field service. Many of these were out for the first time. Another noticeable thing was the unrestrained and sheer joy of the many witnesses who came from the country to the north. They greatly appreciated the New World Assembly: it was just that to them—a new world.

CHARLESTON, W. VA.

Legionnaires attempted to block Jehovah's witnesses from using Splash Beach for immersion, located just across the Kanawha river from the Municipal Auditorium. The owner of the beach had graciously granted the use of his property gratis for baptismal and trailer-camp purposes. When the Legionnaires learned of this, a delegation visited the beach owner to protest his action, charging in effect that Jehovah's witnesses were un-American and flag-haters.

This the beach owner denied, explaining that although he was not a witness he understood clearly the position of the witnesses with regard to the flag and that the Lord's people were merely obeying the Scriptural admonition against rendering obeisance to inanimate objects. Somewhat disgruntled, the Legionnaires left with the parting remark, "Just ask them to put up a flag on your flagpole, and you will see."

Subsequently Jehovah's witnesses were informed of the conversation and a number of the witnesses promptly responded to the challenge, obtained the largest American flag available and hoisted it atop the 25-foot flagpole. Nothing further was heard from the Legionnaires.

A suburban barber, nettled by disparaging remarks of some of his customers about the convention placards displayed in his shop, stoutly defended the witnesses and invited a lady witness into his place of business, and while he clipped the hair of his patrons the witness played the recorded lecture "Comfort All That Mourn".

MADISON, WIS.

Many threats against the witnesses and their assembly was made in Madison, the following one by the chief of police: "You are not going to hold a convention in this city, as you are a bunch of troublemakers and against the president of the United States." This Irish police chief, however, was unable to carry out his threat, and left town during the Assembly to save his face.

On Sunday afternoon a gang of hoodlums congregated around the assembly hall. The military police were finally called, and had hardly arrived when a large group of soldiers moved down upon the witnesses; but, upon spotting the M. P.'s, quickly scattered in all directions.

These tactics having failed, the enemy called the fire department and demanded that the building be vacated, 'as there were not sufficient exits.' The fire department advised them that the exits in the building were adequate. Believing that the message was being transmitted over the telephone line, this was put out of commission; but, since the talk came over special wires, this move proved futile and the enemy were frustrated in their evil designs.

* * *

The other cities sharing in this glorious Assembly and completing the total of 52 for the United States are Tampa, Fla., Des Moines, Iowa, Witchita, Kans., Buffalo, N. Y., Portland, Oreg., Charleston, S. C., El Paso, Tex., Salt Lake City, Utah, and Richmond, Va.

Light for the Righteous

These 52 cities united in giving the Devil's crowd a terrific smiting on the occasion of the New World Theocratic Assembly. Satan's henchmen could see the sledge-hammerlike blow coming and frantically tried to ward it off, but to no avail (Jer. 23:29). This demon-inspired opposition, however, greatly distorted to the people the Assembly and its purpose and doubtless prevent-

ed some of good-will toward God from hearing the vital messages there delivered. The "light [of God's Word] is sown for the righteous". Jehovah has purposed that they shall have it. Puny man can not prevent it. They tried hard in eight American cities, Mitchell, S. Dak., Cleveland, Ohio, Baton Rouge, La., San Antonio, Texas, Detroit, Mich., Springfield, Ill., Klamath Falls, Oreg., and Little Rock, Ark.

There are righteous ones in these cities for whom the light of God's Word is sown. They are not in harmony with the wickedness rampant in this old world and sigh and cry because of it. They do not approve the works of "this present evil world" and are strangers to its sordid devices. It is their right to hear the truths of the New World. Who are the presumptuous Godless ones "that turn aside the stranger from his right"? (Mal. 3:5) Municipal officials, Mayor Lausche of Cleveland, Masons, mobsters, the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Knights of Columbus, and the churches.

A brief résumé of the opposition to the Assembly of God's people in these cities has been given in the foregoing pages of this report, with the exception of Mitchell. This town was to be in the hookup; the contract was signed with the Mitchell Masonic Building Association nearly two months prior to the Assembly date; but the agreement was arbitrarily broken by the Masons, for no just reasons, and this after much advertising expense had been incurred on the part of the lessee. An injunction was sought in court, but the desired relief was denied and freedom of assembly for worship was not upheld.

Does this mean, then, that in these eight cities the righteous ones there did not enjoy the light sown for them at this New World Theocratic Assembly? No; the supposed victory for the religious anti-God crowd was short-lived, and the people of those cities received the powerful message "Peace—Can It Last?" Special campaigns were organized by the witnesses, and at a prearranged time these "strong people set in battle array" moved through those cities. Before the onslaught of the New World warriors the faces of the guilty were much pained and gathered blackness, and in the wake of this army the flaming truths of God's Word scorched and "burned up" the evil-doers. (Joel 2:3-6) But the honest-hearted ones were greatly comforted.

A copy of the booklet *Peace—Can It Last?* was left at each home in these cities. But there was more to it than that. On the cover of the booklets were pasted neat stickers that bluntly pointed an accusing finger at the guilty culprits. These stickers read as follows: "This is the message the Masons of Mitchell tried to keep from you." "This is the message your San Antonio municipal officials didn't want you Americans to receive." "This is the message the mobsters of Springfield didn't want you Americans to receive." "This is the message the mobsters of Klamath Falls didn't want you Americans to receive." "This is the message the mobsters of Little Rock didn't want you Americans to receive." "This is the message your Baton Rouge municipal officials didn't want you Americans to receive." "This is the message the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Knights of Columbus, and the churches didn't want you Americans of Detroit to have." "This is the message Mayor Lausche [Cleveland] didn't want you Americans to hear." The proper stickers were put on the booklets for the respective cities, the distribution of more than 310,000 booklets was made, the enemy howled, the "other sheep" were comforted, and Jehovah's Word and name were magnified.

In addition to this special drive in the interests of the people of good-will, about three weeks later *Consolation* No. 604, which thoroughly exposes the mob rule prevailing during the time of the Assembly and which was sanctioned and aided by the officials of Little Rock, Springfield, and Klamath Falls, was left at every home in these three cities. The victory march of the Greater Jephthah rolls irresistibly on.

TABULATED REPORT OF THE 52 CITIES IN THE UNITED STATES

City (in State order)	Sep. 19	Sep. 20	Imm's'd	Pio.	Pub'rs	Tot. Lit.	Magaz's
Cleveland, Ohio	18,000	26,000	459	1,302	5,967	146,939	10,290
Birmingham, Ala. (W&C)	1,400	2,200	94	129	1,119	13,683	1,146
Mobile, Ala. (W&C)	450	875	31	50	170	3,602	388
Phoenix, Ariz.	450	758	20	62	269	4,650	807
Little Rock, Ark.	1,100	700	35	97	290	9,756	97
Fresno, Calif.	1,050	1,500	63	60	707	13,114	1,143
Los Angeles, Calif.	6,000	8,500	316	440	3,000	47,409	6,310
San Francisco, Calif.	1,600	3,300	68	120	1,239	17,985	2,934
Denver, Colo.	1,000	1,900	61	95	700	12,333	590
Tampa, Fla.	661	1,100	46	72	506	4,802	1,107
Atlanta, Ga. (W&C)	850	1,504	64	45	811	10,407	1,370
Waycross, Ga.	560	835	22	28	542	8,431	705
Emmett, Idaho	356	573	23	21	150	2,594	230
Chicago, Ill.	1,774	4,249	96	104	1,173	25,681	4,007
Springfield, Ill.	1,500	2,100	75	105	1,352	5,756	1,492
Des Moines, Iowa	925	1,744	41	84	540	18,837	826
Wichita, Kans.	1,023	1,836	37	72	803	20,678	497
Louisville, Ky.	1,800	2,400	87	80	1,289	21,192	2,496
Baton Rouge, La. (W&C)	425	840	28	80	350	7,976	674
Rockport, Maine	350	450	25	30	302	5,317	128
Baltimore, Md.	1,599	3,009	71	127	1,270	27,723	4,186
Detroit, Mich.	3,600	6,000	99	86	1,324	43,230	4,525
Duluth, Minn.	700	1,300	39	35	438	5,917	640
Minneapolis, Minn.	1,700	3,500	127	102	1,039	29,292	1,608
Kansas City, Mo.	1,350	2,278	73	126	1,266	20,794	974
Great Falls, Mont.	574	865	56	40	410	5,932	683
Lincoln, Nebr.	750	1,150	27	40	600	3,900	832
Bernalillo, N. Mex.	310	450	15	22	249	2,975	526
Albany, N. Y.	1,262	1,750	34	85	1,496	13,475	1,492
Binghamton, N. Y.	1,096	1,465	59	78	837	12,670	1,357
Buffalo, N. Y.	947	2,000	50	29	524	10,452	2,151
New York, N. Y.	6,000	10,000	219	343	5,472	37,750	6,353
Charlotte, N. C.	1,500	2,500	38	100	617	17,453	2,591
Bismarck, N. Dak.	700	1,000	44	30	361	1,809	419
Oklahoma City, Okla.	1,610	3,000	112	133	1,189	16,519	1,692
Klamath Falls, Oreg.	850	1,040	46	83	818	2,883	1,767
Portland, Oreg.	861	1,519	64	78	465	7,848	739
Providence, R. I.	2,000	3,000	70	110	1,400	30,394	8,000
Charleston, S. C. (W&C)	500	600	21	42	224	3,285	693
Deadwood, S. Dak.	287	391	19	23	254	7,178	206
Knoxville, Tenn.	467	836	33	35	269	4,059	726
Memphis, Tenn.	850	1,550	47	68	415	6,320	837
Dallas, Texas	1,625	3,200	51	131	558	14,435	1,015
El Paso, Texas	275	400	14	31	280	4,897	469
Houston, Texas	900	1,700	60	55	530	12,783	1,152
San Antonio, Texas	1,000	1,350	48	85	620	10,710	1,437
Salt Lake City, Utah	211	406	14	53	135	1,736	360
Richmond, Va.	1,008	1,800	50	69	604	11,287	1,861
Seattle, Wash.	1,609	3,000	91	136	1,374	14,677	3,678
Spokane, Wash.	967	2,000	61	89	786	11,529	1,580
Charleston, W. Va.	910	1,576	55	53	579	5,106	1,337
Madison, Wis.	925	1,700	50	97	1,438	15,222	966
Totals	80,217	129,699	3,548	5,681	49,120	815,382	94,089

(W&C) means assemblies of white and colored

ASSEMBLIES IN OTHER LANDS

The New World Theocratic Assembly embraced many other countries of the earth where fighters for the New World dwell. Theocratic instructions were mailed out to all branches where mail continues to get through, and twenty-nine cities in other countries received copies of the new Bible and *The New World*. It was necessary to use air-mail to the following countries to assure the arrival of all the needed instructions and materials in time for the Assembly: England, Cuba, Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, Trinidad, Hawaii, Switzerland and Sweden. It is interesting to note that shortly after the world-wide Assembly the mail service to Sweden was restricted to the mailing of letters first-class. Had this been true prior to the Assembly Sweden would not have received the Watchtower edition of the Bible and the new book and booklet. Many of these foreign cities do not as yet have in complete reports as to their part in the great Assembly, but here are some of the reports received to date.

Brazil

The witnesses of Jehovah assembled in convention in this country in Saõ Paulo. The gathering was held in the Hotel Terminus, in an auditorium built around a patio in the center of the building. In the patio, a marble fountain banked with green plants and lighted by a cluster of bulbs overhead and by concealed lights in the fountain itself furnished a beautiful setting for the convention. The choice of this delightful little auditorium was certainly directed of the Lord. The district in which the hotel is situated is called "Luz", meaning "light", and on the first night of the convention Saõ Paulo's first blackout was staged, including that very district, but the hotel was omitted! Instead of sitting in darkness the conventioners listened to Jehovah's fitting message "The Only Light".

The courtesy and attention of the management and employees of the hotel were outstanding. The lectures were amplified by the public-address system and could be heard throughout the building. One of the elevator men came with five of his children to the Saturday evening session and subscribed for *The Watchtower*. One of the maids showed great interest, accepted gladly the book *Jehovah* which was presented to her in appreciation of her kind services, and she also subscribed for *The Watchtower*. Sitting beside a witness and gazing out over the happy throng of Jehovah's people, she said, "What calmness here, when all around is such confusion." Another hotel employee stated: "I must have this literature. This has transformed my life." He gathered up all the booklets he could lay his hands on and, after he had devoured their contents, put them on the hotel reading tables. Such profound interest was shown by these kind people who served the witnesses that arrangements were made to present to each of the 250 employees a free copy of the booklet *Peace—Can It Last?*

Britain

Ten cities of Britain were selected to participate in the New World Theocratic Assembly: Belfast, Birmingham, Bristol, Glasgow, Gravesend, London, Newcastle, Swansea, Nottingham and Manchester. The assemblies at Nottingham and Manchester were banned by the Home Secretary because they were, he claimed, likely to create a "disorder".

Part of the three thousand who journeyed to Manchester, to find the assembly banned

The ban was imposed at such a late date that the witnesses planning to assemble at Nottingham and Manchester could not be advised of the cancellation of the gatherings. Three thousand publishers came to Manchester to enjoy the Christian meetings there, but learned upon arrival that such assemblies had been banned. Instead, they went everywhere in Manchester preaching the gospel. Strenuous efforts were put forth by those in charge of the convention to secure hall accommodations outside the city (only in Manchester and Nottingham, apparently, was there 'danger of disorder', though all the other convention cities had identical programs), but enemy opposition prevented this move. The witnesses who did come to Manchester, however, received copies of *Kingdom News* No. 10 (same as No. 11 in the United States) and were informed of the new book. Those who stayed in Manchester throughout the three days heard on Sunday afternoon and evening at the Kingdom Halls the two outstanding speeches, "Fighters for the New World" and "Peace—Can It Last?" Large numbers of the three thousand journeying to Manchester were able to get to one of the other convention cities in Britain for the Sunday sessions.

The experiences at Nottingham were similar to those at Manchester. There, however, all the meetings were held, but at the Kingdom Hall in Derby, some sixteen miles distant. This was not known by the officials of Nottingham or the press, the police stating they were satisfied "the Jehovah's witnesses had gone home". On Sunday evening the convention servant phoned the most decent of all the newspapermen and informed him of a "scoop" awaiting him if he would call early Monday morning. He was there on time. In the midday edition the full statement of Jehovah's witnesses appeared, and was headed, "Witnesses and Their Conference. Held Despite Ban." Next day the headline ran, "Witnesses Claim Signal Victory." The story of the Greater Jephthah's triumph was carried by other papers, including national morning editions.

The reports from Britain indicate that the purpose of the persecution in these two instances suffered a sharp defeat. Many people expressed sympathy for the witnesses and indignation concerning their treatment, innumerable studies in the book *Children* were started by the witnesses as a result of the ban bringing the issue to the fore, and a far greater witness was accomplished by Jehovah's permission of these happenings and his maneuvering of them.

Here are some extracts from a letter sent by the convention chairmen of the ten cities on behalf of Jehovah's witnesses to the Rt. Hon. Herbert Morrison, M. P.:

"The directions issued by you in pursuance of your powers under paragraph 2 of the Defence Regulation 39E banning the meetings of Jehovah's witnesses in Manchester and Nottingham is a blow against freedom of worship in Britain, the like of which has not been seen since the 17th century.

"You advised that not only the pub-

lic session of the conventions on Sunday afternoon but also the entirely private devotional assemblies for worship were also banned. This denial of freedom of worship and freedom of speech was enforced because in your opinion 'the holding of such conventions would be likely to cause serious public disorder'.

"Whilst we express to you, and the police authorities at the several cities, our appreciation of the co-operation we received, we are bound to register our concern at the refusal of the chiefs of police of Manchester and Nottingham to grant us the right of private assembly for worship. As you are aware, when at Manchester the Belle Vue assembly was banned, representations were made to yourself and the chief constable for permission to meet in private—even in a church building with the assurance that this meeting was for worship and confined to our own people with entry to the building by ticket only—this right also was refused and a further ban issued to prohibit the holding of such a meeting. Similar requests regarding Nottingham had exactly the same result. You were advised that the program of the assembly for worship in those two cities was identical with the programs successfully concluded in each of the other cities in Britain, and to which you raised no objection. We conclude, therefore, that there was no question of illegal or harmful intention in the meetings which were banned, but that the local police were incapable of protecting civil rights.

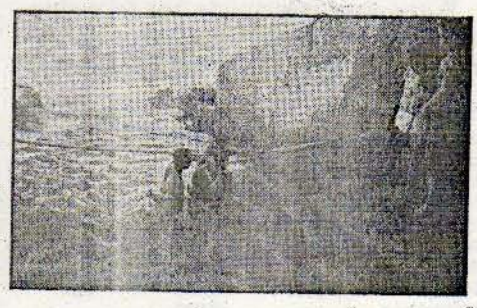
"We accordingly, as chairmen of the conventions of Jehovah's witnesses, hereby express, on behalf of those there assembled, our anxiety for the future protection of freedom of worship. It may well be that such restrictions of worship will eventually deprive all sincere Christians in this land of their liberty to worship their Maker according to their own conscience."

Despite these difficulties, over 11,000 attended the assemblies of worship in Great Britain. In London, during the assembly there, one of the publishers called at the home of a clergyman who visits Wormwood Scrubs prison to minister to those of his denomination. He informed the witness at his door that he had met Jehovah's witnesses at the prison who were there for their convictions, that they were the most faithful men he had ever met, and that he had spoken to Mr. Morrison, the Home Secretary, telling him that 'these people will win out because they have God on their side'. He took literature and sent the publisher away laden with fruit from his garden. (Because of the faithful testifying of those of Jehovah's witnesses in Wormwood Scrubs, one of the wardens has taken his stand for The Theocracy and participates in the field service.)

Among the messages received by the conventioners assembled at London was the following from the witnesses interned on the Isle of Man: "Dear brethren assembled at convention, the Lord's people being blessed once more with the privilege of assembly, we at 'Patmos' send Theocratic greetings. True to Jehovah's promise His servants shall eat and be satisfied. (Isaiah 65: 13-15) Closely united with you in brotherly love, we remain, Some of the Little Band of Singers."

Cuba

One writer states concerning this gathering that "it was a banner convention that will ever be remembered by the city of Havana. The city was carried by such a storm of door-to-door witnessing and advertising that it left the populace half-dazed!" The witnesses came from all parts of Cuba, some from the interior and who had never before set foot in a large city. In many cases they traveled more than a day on horseback to reach a point where they could catch a train or bus.



The immersion at Havana, Cuba

A cafeteria, a miniature of the one at Cleveland, was operated, and many were fed free of charge. This was an eye-opener for the owners of the hall. They couldn't fathom why food was given away free. One puzzled worldling remarked: "You people work day and night preparing food, and then give it away!" A "peculiar people", these Jehovah's witnesses.

When the new releases were announced the ones assembled raised the roof. Only the statement that the publications were not ready in their native tongue calmed them, but there were sample copies of each release for them to feast their eyes upon. The fact that most thrilled the witnesses was the lack of an author's name on the new book. Jehovah God and Christ Jesus are the Teachers.

Some of the witnesses looked sad because there was nothing new for them in their own language; but Jehovah had a gift for them too. Announcement was made that although the government agencies were having difficulties in receiving goods from the United States, Jehovah had opened the way for a large shipment of the book *Children* in Spanish to be sent to Cuba, and that this shipment had arrived despite the Hitler-Pacelli submarines and would be ready for distribution in a few days!

The report from Havana concludes: "The brethren in Cuba wish to take this opportunity to thank first Jehovah, then the Society, for making the arrangements which permitted us to share in this great feast, and we look forward with added zeal to the next and the next and the next!"

Mexico

The enthusiasm of the witnesses to attend the New World Theocratic Assembly in Mexico City was so great that in spite of harder conditions and more serious economical straits a much greater number attended than were present at the assembly last year. Quite a number of the conventioners did not even have with them the return fare, but decided not to do without the expected blessings.

The printed program, in Spanish, was a replica of the one used in the United States, including the beautiful picture on the front cover. The English program arrived just one day before the start of national holidays, but fortunately a cut of the program picture was immediately made and the printing was done at the Society's branch. *Kingdom News* No. 11 was translated and released at the gathering and all activities followed as close as possible those of the key city, Cleveland.

Newfoundland

No definite report of the convention in this part of the earth is available, but the following statement will suffice to show that the standard is still held aloft and that the steady and persistent shining of "the only light" is reaching the people of good-will: "We the

publishers of the Theocratic Government in St. John's and near-by places assembled in convention at St. John's on Sunday, September 20, declare, That we are wholly for Jehovah and his kingdom under Christ; that in obedience to the Lord's command we will continue to sound the warning that the day of Jehovah's vengeance against Satan's organization is near at hand. Although deprived of literature for the past two years, and subject to strict censorship (which is to be expected from the religious opposers of God's kingdom), the work of 'comforting those that mourn' goes on and people of good-will are taking their stand for the New World of Righteousness, which will soon replace the present abominable totalitarian setup. We clearly recognize the WATCHTOWER as the channel used by Jehovah to provide the instruction and encouragement so vitally necessary at this time."

Trinidad, B. W. I.

In line with what was being done in other parts of the globe, a convention was arranged for and took place in Princes Town, Trinidad, on September 20. It was much enjoyed.

The morning was set aside for field service, and at this time the adversary showed his wrath. Two of the witnesses were bearing testimony by means of an electrical transcription machine installed in a car when a police inspector drove up and confiscated their records, some of which are prohibited by a local law. As this news spread, it gave zest to the witnesses and added piquancy to the convention.

A supply of the booklet *Satisfied*, printed locally, was received in time for the assembly. These were eagerly snatched up by the New World warriors and were well received by the people. The booklet implemented the morning's work and was like a tonic to the publishers who, due to a government ban on most of the literature and also on account of restrictions on importations through lack of shipping space, have for some time had no books or booklets to offer to the people. This additional ammunition, therefore, was gladly welcomed.

Other Messages Received

Word was received from Australia on September 9 that they were arranging to hold conventions in 7 cities in Australia and 3 in New Zealand, in unity with the Assembly in the United States. They state that, despite considerable opposition to the meetings, by the Lord's grace the arrangements will go through.

And so it was. From Australia after the Assembly came the following cable: "Conventions totaled 7,000. Immersed 300. Full report sent."

Though accounts of the other convention cities scattered throughout the earth are not available, here are three of the many cablegrams from distant lands that testify to the bond of unity closely linking all fighters for the New World regardless of intervening physical space:

"Friends send love and greetings to American brethren and pray Jehovah's rich blessing upon you."—SOUTH AFRICA.

(A report by a member of the Norwegian merchant marine, given at Cleveland, indicated that seven assembly points had been arranged for in South Africa on the three days of September 18, 19 and 20, and it was expected that the *Hope* booklet would be released there, both in English and Afrikaans.)

"Conventioners over 2,000 strong assembled in Nigeria. Greetings to conventioners in America."—WATCH TOWER, Lagos, Nigeria (West Africa).

"Resolution enthusiastically passed. Hawaii publishers assembled send joyful greetings."—HONOLULU.

The World-wide Report

While very incomplete, the following table will give some conception of the magnitude of the New World Assembly.

COUNTRIES	Att'd	Immersed
Australasia	7,000	300
Brazil	721	10
Britain	11,030	562
British Guiana	300	
Cuba	828	68
Hawaii (Honolulu)	99	9
Mexico	1,600	121
Nigeria (three cities)	2,476	374
Switzerland	2,300	
Trinidad	371	
United States	129,699	3,548
TOTALS	156,424	4,992

This is a good report, a 'fattening' blessing from the Lord.—Prov. 15:30.

"Arise and Shine!"

The Assembly at Cleveland was addressed for a few moments by the aged secretary-treasurer of the WATCH TOWER SOCIETY. He mentioned the first convention he attended. It was in the year 1900, held in Chicago, and was a big one—about 250 in attendance. Other "big" conventions of many years back were enumerated. Then he concluded: "This convention looks large to us now, but as this convention is large in comparison with the ones that I have attended in the past, so I anticipate this convention will be a very small one in comparison to those just in the future when the Lord begins to assemble his people from all corners of the globe."

This was the encouraging vision held in the minds of all those who had been present at the Assembly as they left this "feast of fat things" and returned to their local fields of gospel-preaching. It was the theme of the New World Assembly. The spark was kindled by the thrilling prospects of ingathering as set forth in the keynote speech, "The Only Light." Fuel was added by the revelations concerning the "Jephthah's daughter" class, that all this fruitage of the "strange work", the ever-increasing ranks of the "daughter" class, would be used to Jehovah's everlasting praise and vindication. During the Assembly itself incomplete reports show 4,992 symbolized their full consecration to Jehovah God and their attachment to the Greater Jephthah; thus these thousands of NEW fighters for the New World were gathered into the one fold.

The witnesses left the Assembly with burning zeal, anxious to spring forward in response to the "Go ahead" signal and fight for the New World. The fight ahead might be a long one. But had not the Greater Jephthah swept aside all Ammonitish opposition aimed at blocking this gigantic Assembly? and would not He continue to lead his earthly warriors from victory to victory till no opposition remained? None doubted the answer. This is the time when the Greater Jephthah will FIGHT, and WIN! Jehovah had given the "Go ahead" signal. And he had not sent them ahead empty-handed. They have new weapons for the war, Jehovah's words in their mouths, and his ever-present invincible spirit upon their heads. The Lord Jehovah spread a table for them in the midst of their enemies, they fed thereat, and their strength was renewed. Now they shall not weary in well-doing and faint. "They that wait for Jehovah shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint." So, FORWARD! all fighters for the New World. That He may be glorified, "ARISE and SHINE!"